TRANSFORMATION

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BEAUTY HACKS
From Around the World

DRAG QUEENS OF IRELAND & ENGLAND
Panti Bliss & Asifa Lahore

INTERNATIONAL ISSUE

FTM Spotlight: Ames Bex

Display until 4/11/16

Transgender Erotica Awards 2016

PHOTO CREDIT: Chokchai

TRANSFORMATION

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[BACK COVER PHOTO]
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EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers

Welcome to another first for *Transformation* magazine, an International issue featuring transgender beauties from all over the world. As you probably know we have been talking about gender identity and expression for over 20 years but it seems as though these topics are only recently coming to the surface for many others, especially those outside of the LGBT community, both domestically and abroad. And even though we have always been a U.S. based publication *Transformation* has always done its best to cover all aspects of gender from all corners of the globe, to show that the struggle for equality, understanding, and acceptance is universal.

After reading the interview responses, and attending a Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony, I am reminded that despite the discriminatory rhetoric and violence aimed at the transgender community the United States is still one of the more progressive nations when it comes to LGBT rights. So many of your sisters and brothers are living in places we cannot even fathom, fighting tooth and nail for even the most basic human rights. It is these warriors we celebrate in this issue, the ones living their authenticity, being visible every day despite the risks, standing tall in the face of adversity in order to blaze a trail for those who may be too frightened to do so. Progress can be slow but it is gained each and every day thanks to the people you see in this issue who represent trans life in their corner of the world and who show us the true meaning of beauty, international or otherwise.

I hope you enjoy this very unique issue of *Transformation* and find inspiration within its pages. I have personally learned a great deal about the experiences of transgender people around the world, what makes people different and what makes people the same, and that which unites us all is our shared calling to carry the fire of trans acceptance and recognition to every corner of the globe. Together we will keep it alight forever.

Hanna

Sadie Kross of Finland
Photo by Pentti Manninen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Write to me at:

Transformation
PO Box 11677
Reno, NV 89510

Dear Transformation,

Thanks for producing an excellent magazine. I'm very pleased and turned on by the outstanding spread on Violet Chachki. She is very hot and outstanding in her erotic creativity.

Would you please direct me to resources on how to get anything/everything about Violet Chachki- (Posters, Possible fan club, How to be her slave, Magazine spreads). I am a hopeless admirer/slave to Violet Chachki!

Don

Dear Don,

You are not alone in your admiration for Violet; I must admit that I am in love with her as well! I had the honor of meeting her twice and she's just as sexy in person as on the page, and a sweetheart too. I am sending you some resources to get even more Violet, but everyone else can find her all over the internet these days (www.violetchachki.net) and in a superb fetish feature in a brand new magazine called *Queen*.

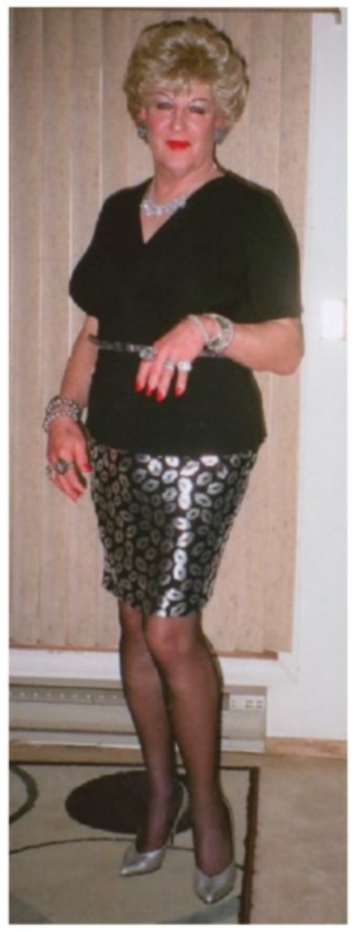
Hanna

Thank you girls at *Transformation* for helping us T-Girls be ourselves! Here are photos of me in some outfits from your Centurian flyers.

Love you,
Gayle

Yowza! Gayle you look magnificent! Thank you for sharing your pictures with us and showing off your amazing style. You are a great example of how to coordinate and accessorize an outfit for maximum appeal; jewelry, belts, shoes, stockings, and a nice manicure are essential elements for putting together an entire "look" so thank you for showing us how it's done!

xoxo,
Hanna



We need your ideas!

I love your magazine! I have an idea for your 100th issue. Why not offer an additional sister magazine featuring all of the layouts of all your centerfolds? I know it will cost a few bucks, however, I for one would absolutely purchase one. Or two!

Luv,
Foxy

Dear Foxy,

Thank you so much for the kind words, and for the suggestion for our upcoming 100th issue. I think if I dig deep into the archives I can find many of these vintage centerfolds. Since this is such an historical milestone for us to reach we are going to be working on the issue all year, and I want to hear from other readers as well! Let me know your ideas now so there is time to include as many requests as possible. Do you want to see other features from our archives? Should we do any follow up interviews? Fashion spreads? Send me your ideas right away!

xoxo,
Hanna

READER'S LETTERS

Dear Transformation,

Thank you for being so supportive of me the last three years. I have been on a roller coaster ride trying to express my femininity to the world. Fetish queen Violet Chachki is absolutely stunning. What a role model for all of us gurlz. I am about to be published for my poem "Little Girl Lost Meets Little Boy Gone". You should start a poetry/literature section for us readers to submit material.

Hopefully you put me in your great magazine again as I am one of your biggest fans! I welcome all correspondence as I have met some great friends through the letters section.

Love always, *Peggy*

Ms. Peggy Le Gee
PO Box 1094
Troy, NY 12181

Hi Transformation,

My name is Chantal. I am a transvestite. I live in Canada, the province of Québec. I'm 5'6" and 128 pounds, gold hair and blue eyes. After reading your magazine I have realized it was time for me to make a big change. I have thrown out of my house all my men's clothes and I have decided to spend the rest of my life as a woman, I mean a full-time woman, 24/7. I am very happy and I appreciate and enjoy my new life. Thanks to you. I wish you a good day. Keep up the good work.

Your friend, *Chantal*

Chantal Roy
10500 ch. Venise
Sherbrook, Quebec
Canada J1N 0H4

Hello Transformation,

My name is Terry Davis. I live and work in Anderson, South Carolina. I am 53 years old, single, and I am still looking for the not so perfect man. I'm interested in men who can wine and dine me, and treat me like a true lady that I am. It costs money to be me, as far as hormones, hair, makeup, all the things that make me the woman I love to be. I will consider relocating if the place or city is right. I am high maintenance, and only men that are well established should write me. Hope to hear from all you men who would love to be my sugar daddies!

Terry

Terry Davis
1007 North Main St. Apt. D
Anderson, SC 29621 – 4868

Dear Transformation,

Thank you for such a wonderful magazine. As a T-girl in my 50s it is nice to have a magazine that caters to all of us who are transgender and the men and women who love us. The stories and photos are great, as well as coverage on places to go and places to shop. I would like correspondence with other TVs, TS's, T-girls, CDs, men, and women, especially in my area (Reno, NV).

Love *Rene*

R. Laspina
2790 Wrondel Way, #604
Reno, NV 89502

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER

Dear Transformation Readers,

My name is Peter, age 54, looking for a love making relationship and someone, or two, to sleep with me every night. I want one or two transsexuals/she-male. No male or no CD/TV type callers. I live in Bakersfield, California and work at a horse ranch. I love Ho scale trains (I have a 19x4 train layout in my apartment) and enjoy fishing for Ling Cod and Rock fish (the photo is me with a Ling Cod catch). I'm looking for someone to live with me as boyfriend and girlfriend and sleep with me. I want to make plans for the summer 2016 going to a nude resort together. Call me at 661-859-0302 and get to know me.

Dear Hanna,

I recently traveled to Ohio and discovered *Transformation* in an adult bookstore. Issue number 86, the swimsuit special! That issue gave me the courage to write in looking for a TS/TV or hermaphrodite pen pal. I am 5'5", divorced, green hazel eyes, and balding blonde hair. Please write me.

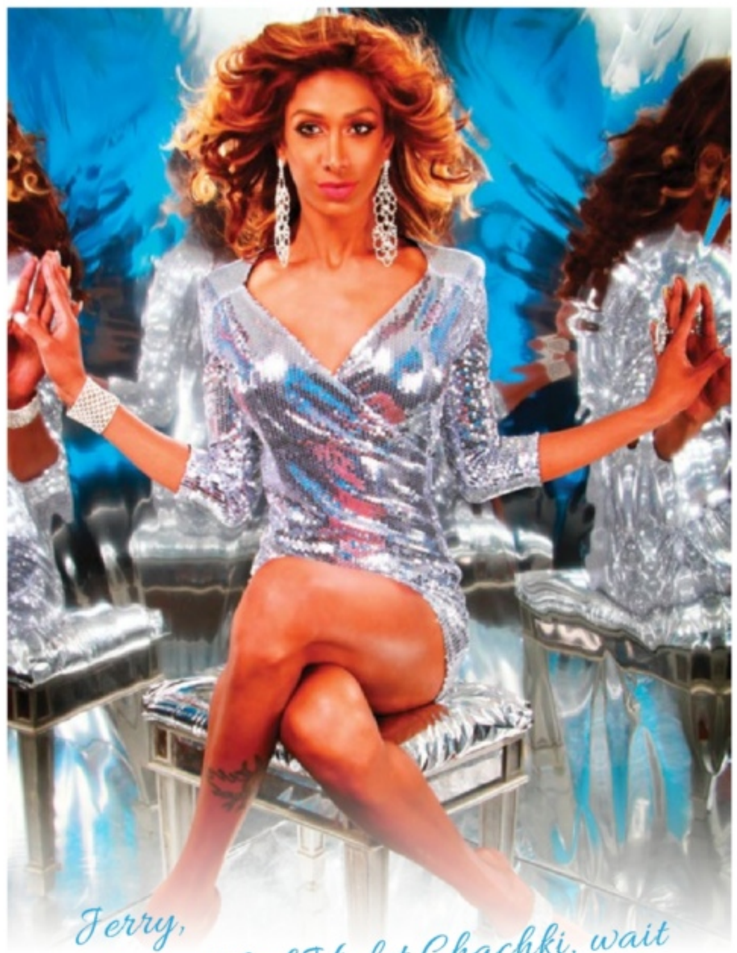
Robin Kal-Ro
6 Lloyd St.
Nanty Glo PA 15943 – 1242

Dear Transformation,

Thank you for such a great mag. Every time I get a new issue I read it all right away. If anyone has a back issue of number 83 I would love to buy it. A big thank you to Susie from Ohio for the great letter and pictures. Also Ronnie H from Illinois and also Jenna from Jackson Mississippi. I think she looks hot and sounds like a lot of fun.

I read the letter of reader of the month Krystal, it was just great. It gives us men hope again in meeting someone like she did. I'm very happy with your readers' letters section. The pictures are great that are sent in. I just love it when they show a lot of leg and the top of the thigh highs and a small look at their bras. I like Donna from Pennsylvania, Peggy Le Gee up there in New York and Victoria from Pennsylvania. What one hot looking lady. Wow! You can print this letter in your readers' letters section and my address thank you.

Ronald Marovets
1096 Jackson Hollow Dr.
Monona, IA 52159



Jerry,
If you liked Violet Chachki, wait till you see our international beauties starting on page 32!

Dear Hanna,

I just wanted to compliment you and your hard-working staff on another fabulous issue number 95 of *Transformation*. The cover photo of Violet Chachki is really alluring as is the entire photo spread inside this great magazine. I practically read the ink off the pages when I get my copy.

Everything is very well done. I really love the readers' letters and photos section. It would be great if you would publish more of them.

Till next time, thanks for all you do for all of us.

Sincerely,
Jerry

PO Box 7382
Appleton, WI 54912

This section is reserved for readers and fans seeking pen pals and friends to correspond with but don't quite fit into our Readers Letters section. Many here write regularly seeking a connection so I hope you find some interesting folks to connect with. As always, be mindful of the personal information you share with strangers and if you do decide to meet in person please be careful.

If You Dream It

BY **MICHELLE AUSTIN**

Five years ago I shot my first adult scene, which was released on Shemale Yum on February 5, 2011. After shooting that scene I thought I would continue on to become a huge star; I had a good friend in the business who was successful and I wanted to follow in her footsteps. Things didn't turn out exactly as I had expected so this column is about a dream that took a long time to come true.

I moved to LA and changed my life five years ago hoping to become an instant star but I soon learned about the reality of the business. Body image is the major factor, along with cock size. I never thought I was ugly; I was always told how beautiful and how passable I was. So, for me to think I wouldn't get more work than Shemale Yum was stupid. Well, I was dumb and naïve to believe that was going to happen. Even though my friend helped me contact studios, only one let me shoot with them. Every other person told me a lie about how my tattoos (which was just my chest at the time) were the reason I wasn't getting cast. No one wanted to tell me, "Sorry you are too fat to be in our film." But I started to clearly see it wasn't my tattoos, it was my weight and lack of big cock. I had many girls on my side, even ones who pushed a big studio to try to release a BBW Shemale DVD. Their response was, "Fat trannies on a cover of a DVD don't sell."

Maybe they were right, but at that time in my life I was in denial about how big I was and decided if they keep labeling me a BBW I am going to use it to my advantage. I got to work and I launched my solo site with Grooby Network. I also began to release my own DVD's called The Voluptuous Diva. All this time I never let on to people the real issues I was going through. How my life was a living hell, and how depressed I was that the harder I tried the further I dug myself into a hole that I had no clue how to get out of.

In July 2011, my husband and I found ourselves homeless, living on the streets of Glendale. I was scared, I was hurt, and I was broken. I just wanted to die, and be put out of all the pain I was feeling. I felt like my life was over but the one person who always stood by me promised me it would get better. My husband told me we can't get any further down then we already are. He was right, and I worked hard to get us out of the mess I put us in. I sold my body to men for 40 bucks, worked a strip club for 60 bucks to pay for shitty roach infested hotels in Studio City. Here I was this beautiful trans girl who had a dream of being something to now degrading myself for a few dollars to live off of.

As much as my life was a shitty one in 2011, I was still dealing with a lot in 2014. I had lost my husband and had no idea where my life or career would go. That summer I released Trans Men Adventures, a DVD I did with all trans men. It became a success, being nominated for all the big awards. It pushed me into believing maybe I was on the right journey at last. In November I shot a scene with my now partner/boyfriend Dicky Johnson. It was a fun scene and it has many fond memories tied to it. Dicky and I began dating in December and the love was instant. Here was a new man who believed in my vision and in me. I have been lucky to have two incredible guys in my life like that.

In the past year my career has sky rocketed. People know who I am, they know my work, and they are taking note of me not as just a performer but a businesswoman and director. I truly believe I wouldn't have made it here if fate didn't bring me Dicky when he did. I was ready to give up on a lot of things because of what this business has done to me.

It took a long battle to get where I am now and I still fight a battle of what is right and wrong in this business. All I know is, I worked too hard for the career I have to just throw it away because of how people have treated me. I thank Grooby for always supporting me and for allowing me a voice in a business that doesn't allow many trans women to speak. I want to thank Dicky for making me a better person and helping me see things I have never seen and for loving me. I would love to go another five years and prove to everyone if you dream it, you can be it. I feel like my dream was a fucked up one, but I am finally finding happiness at the end of so much heartache.

I want to lastly thank my fans that have always been by my side. Who have told me how beautiful I was when I felt like I wasn't. For the guys who spent their money to visit and help me survive through my fucked up journey. I don't think anyone knew how bad it was but I put on a happy face when I have to. But thank you for the five years of my career and making it worth it in the end. I love you all from the bottom of my heart!

Feel free to contact me at tsmichelleausting@gmail.com or follow me on twitter at @tsmichelleausti

GIRLTALK!

BY **RANDI JUNE**

Foundations
FOR YOUR FEMININE FIGURE

Hi Girlfriends! With colder weather upon us we find more Holiday and winter parties going on, and they are usually more formal or semi-formal. Dresses are more form fitting and proper foundations are extremely important! Most of us love beautiful foundations; probably early on in your crossdressing the first things you ever put on were bras, panties, girdles and stockings that belonged to your Mom or Sister. Sometimes they fit and sometimes they didn't. But, the more we got into it we realized how proper sizing is essential.

I think the sexiest foundation garments for the crossdresser are Bustiers, Corsets and Body Briefers. They are garments that give us curves and mold us into that sexy female creature we desire to be! Unfortunately they also can be uncomfortable and disappointing. We see models in lingerie catalogs looking so beautiful in them and we just have to have one so we can look the same! I'm here to tell you ladies; it doesn't always happen. What I hope to do in this column is to keep you from having a bad experience and making an expensive mistake.

Let's start with Bustiers and Corsets, the one piece undergarment that incorporates a bra and waist-cincher in one. It ends about half way down your hips. They usually sell from $50 to $80 on average, with the cheaper ones having less support and boning. Most of us need the shaping help of one that is a little more expensive. Nowadays these garments can be found in a wide range of sizes ... 32 to 44, A to DD cups. Check carefully before you buy, as you will probably want a full cup style with straps or at least removable straps.

Sizing can be difficult. Normally you should buy your garment in your bra size; however, if your midriff is larger you might want to go up one band size. It is always best to go to a lingerie shop or department store and try it on if you are able to pass easily. The biggest thing to be careful of when buying a Bustier or Corset is to take your height into consideration. Most women are less than 5' 10" tall, so these are cut for shorter torsos. If you are over 5' 10" you probably should carefully consider a few factors before buying one. You may end up with your boobs in the middle of your stomach, or if you can get your boobs in the right place, your midriff will be below the garment!

When purchasing one of these garments, keep in mind the difference between them. A Bustier hooks either in the back or the front while a Corset is laced in back and hooks in front. You will need help to get it laced properly, then, as long as the lacings stay laced you can take it off and put it on with the front hooks. Trying to lace a Corset by yourself is quite challenging and I find almost impossible! If you need a size that is larger than a

WHEN PURCHASING ONE OF THESE GARMENTS, KEEP IN MIND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM.

38, you will probably have to go to a lingerie shop rather than a department store. Very seldom do I see larger sizes in department stores. You also might try stores that cater to larger women. Lane Bryant, for example, carries some beautiful Bustiers!

Your other shopping alternative is by catalog or on line. Check out: CENTURIAN (Transformation's retail parent company), SECRETS IN LACE (my favorite!), FREDERICKS OF HOLLYWOOD, SHIRLEY'S OF HOLLYWOOD, LANE BRYANT, LADY GRACE, or VICTORIA'S SECRET.

Remember that Bustiers and Corsets come with removable garters to attach to your stockings. (Very Sexy!) However they can be removed if you prefer pantyhose.

Now a little about Body Briefers. A Body Briefer is a complete one piece foundation garment, incorporating a longline bra and girdle. They are available in brief or long leg styles, as well as an open bottom style with garters. In buying a Body Briefer, the same sizing rules I stated for Bustiers and Corsets applies. However...consider bathroom issues. The brief bottom styles have a hook & eye closing crotch for convenience. Most long leg briefers have either a split or hook & eye closing crotch. But, keep in mind, you are also probably wearing pantyhose! HMMM? The open style with stockings is probably most convenient but a Body briefer is probably a little more comfortable than a Bustier or a Corset and will give you smooth lines in clingy clothes. They are usually not boned, whereas Bustiers and Corsets usually are. Body Briefers can be found with or without underwires and are readily available in sizes from 34-B to 46-DDD. You can find Body Briefers with light or firm control. They are quite comfortable and can be found in lingerie or department stores, catalogs or on line.

Ladies, I hope this helps all of you with your girlish figures. Remember that even the most constricting garment cannot work miracles. Some people simply cannot wear these undergarments. If I've helped you to make a better decision though, that is my purpose. These are expensive items and you don't deserve to be disappointed!

In the next issue I will discuss foundations for everyday wear. Enjoy being the ladies you love to be!

Shape it up!

**Best All-in-One fit for a male body type

Body Briefer Open Bottom Extra Firm Shaping

R9357 $89.95

Contour bands shape the derriere, hips and waist. Six metal garters are placed for perfect stocking control. Sold by BRA SIZE Ranges: White and Black 34 to 48 (B-C-D) Pink/Black 34 to 48 (B-C-D-DD)

Body Briefer Long Leg Firm Shaping

R9071 $89.95

Exclusive split crotch for convenient opening. Torso variations can be adjusted by changing strap lengths. Available Colors: White, Black, Beige. Sold by BRA SIZE: Size Range: 34B – 48DD R9057*Extra Firm Shaping available in this style @ same price and options.

Body Briefer Short Leg Firm Shaping

R9051 $89.95

Available Colors: White, Beige, Black Sold by BRA SIZE: Size Range: 34B – 48DD

Add the foam breast inserts for $49.95 TF801

Cup sizes A, B, C or D. Soft, lightweight forms fill out any bra, great for when shaping is needed but not the weight.

Open Bottom Girdle Firm Shaping

R1359 $59.95

Contour bands for shaping waist, hips, back and derrière. Six metal garter clips. Available Colors: White, Beige, Black. Size Range: S/26 – 8XL/46 *provide waist size on order form

Girdle with Garters Firm Shaping

R21 $59.95

Contour bands for shaping waist, hips, back and derrière. Four detachable metal garters. Available Colors: White, Black. Size Range: S/26 – 8XL/46 *provide waist size on order form

Garter Belt Medium Shaping

R72522 $46.95

Comfort panel contours tummy and hips. Six (8 inch) adjustable metal garters. Available Colors: White, Black. Size Range: S/26 – 6XL/42 *provide waist size on order form

Padded Panty

NMPP $52.95

Stretch nylon panties have four pocketed areas to add shaping to the body. 2 hip pads and 2 rear pads are included. Sizes: SM (28-30), M (32-34), L36-38), XL (40-42) (Black, Nude and Pink) 2X (44-46), 3X (48-50) (Black only). *provide waist size on order form

High Waist Panty

NMWHP $44.95

Supportive control panty with wide elastic smoothes and flattens the upper tummy area. Colors: Black, Beige. Sizes: SM (28-30), M (32-34), L36-38), XL (40-42) 2X (44-46), 3X (48-50) *provide waist size on order form

Use order form on page 98.

If you need assistance call us at 775-322-5119

High Waist Leg Shaper Firm Shaping

R6209 $59.95

High waist smooths away midriff bulge. Split crotch for convenient opening. Available Colors: White, Beige, Black. Size Range: S/26 – 15XL/58 *provide waist size on order form

Ask AUNT RANDI

Have questions?
Randi June
PO Box 355
Howe, IN 46746

DEAR AUNT RANDI,

Q: HOW SHOULD A T-GIRL FLIRT with a straight guy if she has a clue he likes T-Girls, but isn't sure?

"Interested" | Upstate New York

A: NORMALLY! Flirting is flirting! But, when the guy likes what he sees and flirts back, you need to stay in control. You can probably get away with a little making out but if it goes further and he gets his hopes up you'd better level with him sooner rather than later. Never go anywhere with a guy you just met. If he asks you for a date after you let him know you are a T-Girl let your conscience be your guide. We are no different than any other woman in that situation. If you do go out with him on a first date make it someplace public and meet him there, and see how it goes. Good Luck!

DEAR AUNT RANDI,

Q: I AM A CLOTHES HORSE and love to buy new outfits all the time. However, when I do, I usually end up with too many blouses and insufficient skirts, or too many shoes, but no outfits to wear them with? Oh, I do love shoes! How should my wardrobe become better balanced? Any easy solutions?

No Self Control | Plains, GA

A: WELCOME TO WOMANHOOD! It's definitely a "Girl Thing"! I confess that I'm as bad about that as you are. But, to regulate yourself, always keep in mind what you have. Does that cute top go with a skirt or slacks you already have? Color coordinate and try to keep items in a similar palate. I like to have a variety of colors that work for me. I admit that I have a huge wardrobe, but I do think that color coordinating keeps everything more usable. I even color coordinate my foundations and lingerie! And, yes, I color coordinate my shoes as well! It's what we girls do!

DEAR AUNT RANDI,

Q: CAN YOU TELL ME THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES of some organizations that encourage the fundamental purposes, interests and desires of T-Girls? I live in a smaller town, and find meeting people difficult who share similar inclinations?

Scarlett | Cambridge, OH

A: ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO FIND THEM IS ON THE INTERNET, although it will take some searching. Surprisingly, in many cases you may find an organization only an hour or two away from your small town! Our editor suggests calling Stonewall Columbus, an LGBT community center in Columbus, Ohio, as they may be an excellent resource to begin with. They can be reached at: (614) 299-7764

In addition, *TRANSFORMATION Magazine* carries a listing of transgender friendly nightclubs. We are also now listing TG Events around the country. TG Clubs and organizations.... Please contact us with your information. We will list it, even as much as a year in advance!

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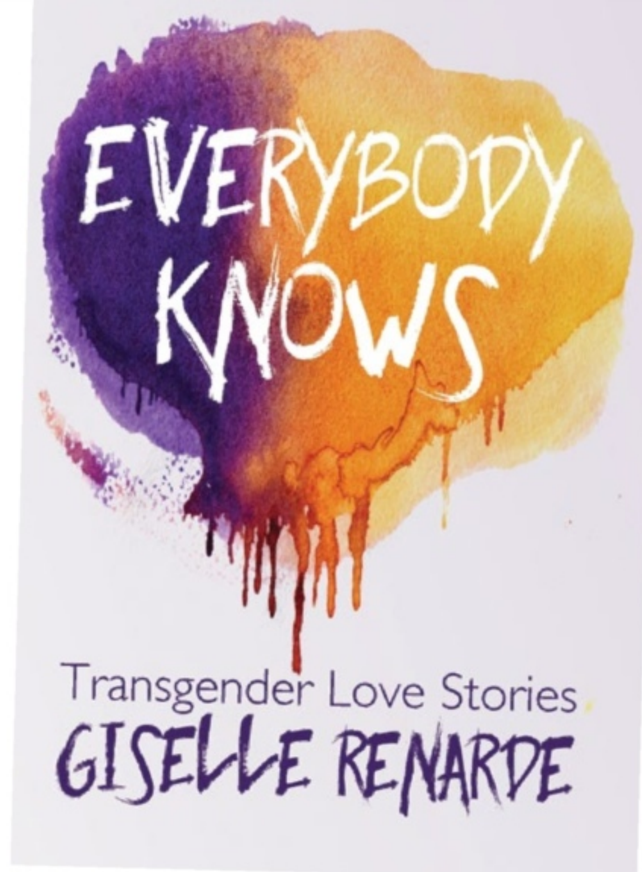
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Signature _____

❑ I certify that I am 21 years of age and would like to be on your mailing list

BENDING THE BOOKSHELF

BY **SALLY BEND**



15 sweet and sensual transgender tales that run the gamut from romantic fantasy to true confession — challenging, amusing, stimulating and tender, these stories are sure to captivate the hearts of readers of all genders. In *Everybody Knows*, love is love regardless of how it's packaged.

All of Giselle's transgender stories are born out of experience, appreciation, and affection for the transgender community. Instead of focusing on the fetishistic aspects of gender expression, she writes of friends, lovers, and partners whose gender identity is simply a part of who they are. With only 5 of the stories in *Everybody Knows* having been previously published, this a fantastic collection for long-time fans and new readers alike.

Hot Oil Treatment is, as Giselle freely admits, a personal story about her relationship with her trans girlfriend of 7 years. In it, she recounts all the little things they have done together that allowed them to be sexual, without ever confronting the question of gender. It is sweet and tender . . . and incredibly erotic.

SM, or How I Met My Girlfriend in a Queer Theatre is a story that says some interesting things about stereotypes and prejudices (even within the LGBT community), but the focus is on the passionate discovery of love, behind the scenes of a drag show, between a lesbian and her transsexual girlfriend.

Max Alone in See-Through Panties stands out in that it is not a romance, but an erotic exploration of one man's fondness for pink panties. Yes, there is a fetishistic aspect to his masturbation, but the final scene reveals a sweet (and familiar) truth about the peace of gender identity.

The Therapist and the Whore is Giselle at her most romantic and thought-provoking best, turning the tables on our expectations with a kind, lovable, transsexual whore who serves as a remarkably effective bedroom therapist.

Bertie and the Vamp is a fun story that takes an interesting look at gender nonconformity. There is an aspect of cosplay to the story, with a husband and wife dressing up for an arm wrestling event, but the highlight is the most erotic exploration of tucking that I have ever come across.

Eclipse the Stars is a touching story that spends as much time exploring emotions as it does bodies, demonstrating a kind of understanding and compassion so rarely found in erotic fiction. Few authors can comment upon the transformation of a lover's sex while in the throes of passion, and still come across as tender and respectful, but that is precisely what Giselle does here.

Glitter in the Gutter is probably the darkest, saddest tale in the collection, with Dotschy coming home to find Connor purging all aspects of Charlotte from their lives. It provides a glimpse into the fear and shame that so many of us carry inside, but it also reminds us that love is blind, and "gender's between your ears, not between your legs."

One Woman Show wraps things up with a story that starts out with the promise of risqué fetishistic exhibition, leads into some awkward revelations and confessions, and ends with the exploration of romantic sexual exhibition. The way Giselle develops a purely platonic friendship into something sexual, dressing Wellesley up physically, even as she undresses her emotionally, is just beautiful.

Through these *15 Transgender Love Stories*, Giselle Renarde takes us from a world of fear where we worry that Everybody Knows, to one of acceptance and understanding where everybody knows...and nobody cares.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Giselle Renarde is an award-winning queer Canadian writer. Nominated Toronto's Best Author in NOW Magazine's 2015 Readers' Choice Awards, her fiction has appeared in more than 100 short story anthologies, including prestigious collections like Best Lesbian Romance, Best Women's Erotica, *and the Lambda Award-winning collection* Take Me There, *edited by Tristan Taormino. Giselle's juicy novels include* Anonymous, Cherry, Seven Kisses, *and* The Other Side of Ruth.

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Photo by James Smith at www.jamesmithimage.com | Patient: Gia Darling at www.darlingmodel.com

SEXUALLYSPEAKING

BY **MISTRESS SAMANTHA**

DEAR MISTRESS SAMANTHA

I'm writing to you in spite of my extensive credentials. You see, I'm a Harvard educated Medical Doctor, more specifically, a well-known and respected Psychiatrist. I thought it was time to branch out a little in my practice, so I decided to advertise in various Crossdressing, and Transgender sites to see what kind of response I would get. Much to my amazement, my phone started ringing off the hook, and I obtained many new clients.

Crossdressers, Pre-Op and Post-Op Transsexuals, She-Males, Gay, Bi Curious, and those with gender identity issues were booked to see me two months in advance! Most assuredly, we have SOME training regarding these topics in Medical School, however, I must admit I was totally unprepared for some of the wild stories that I heard during many of those therapy sessions! Suffice to say, you just can't make that stuff up! Of course, there were the regular run of the mill questions and concerns as well, but some of those "taxi cab confessions" were unbelievable!

Mistress Samantha, I know I'm supposed to view these things clinically, but believe it or not, some of those therapy sessions began turning me on so much, it was all I could think about. I read everything I could find in magazines, and online about Crossdressing, how to apply makeup, dress properly, and style my hair. I learned how to be totally passable as a woman, and how to meet a hot guy that would love and appreciate a classy, educated woman such as myself. Eventually, I started Crossdressing. I must admit, I looked great! I finally understood what my patients were talking about when they said they felt sexy and totally complete after they transformed themselves into a beautiful woman, because I did too! Mistress, I'm totally confused, and since you've talked to thousands of Transvestites, Transsexuals, She- Males, etc. over the past eighteen years, I would like your take on this situation. Do you think I'M going through a phase, or is this just a latent part of my personality that's beginning to emerge? What should I do about it?

DR. X | LAKEWOOD, OH

DEAR DR.

There are many reasons why this radical change might be happening to you. Perhaps listening to all those "wild stories" from your patients created a sexual fantasy frenzy that has engulfed your body, mind, and soul! As you well know, some thoughts or ideas can be a catalyst for latent predisposed tendencies. Some of those tendencies will grow and morph into something greater and long term, while others will dissipate over a period of time. Most Transvestites start dressing up when they are quite young; however, there are some who begin their journey much later in life for various reasons.

I think your latent desires are real, and should be explored. If you don't examine the realm of all possibilities in life, you'll always wonder if you missed something that would have made you feel happier, and more fulfilled. Learn to enjoy and explore this lifestyle without guilt, as this seems to be the biggest problem my clients always talk about. Whether you decide this lifestyle is permanent or temporary, it will definitely make you a better therapist. You will be able to fully understand, and appreciate the mindset of the Crossdressing/Transgender patient and the trials and tribulations they're trying to overcome. Perhaps you might want to explore the possibility of catering exclusively to the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community. After all, you've experienced it firsthand, and would be most helpful while being open minded and non-judgmental! Just a thought! Good luck, and please let me know if you have any other questions.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

2015 *A Year in Review*

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JAN

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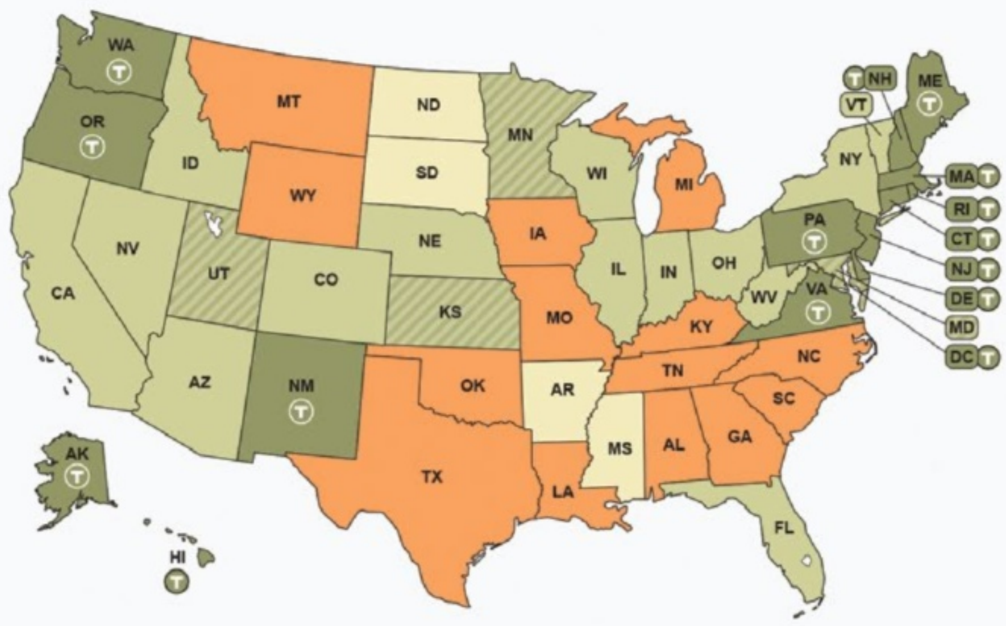
ABILITY TO CORRECT THE GENDER MARKER ON IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

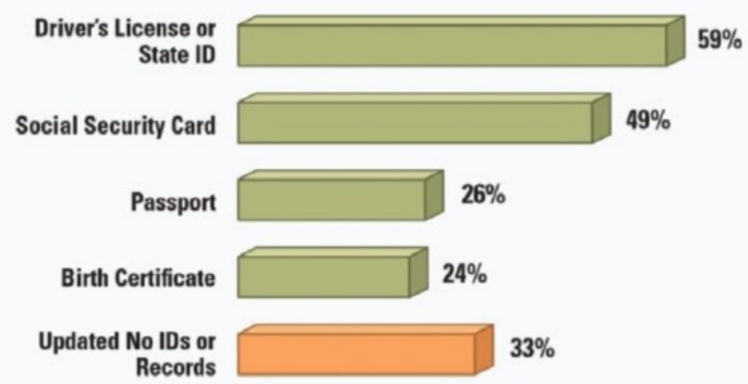
Driver's license and birth certificate policies govern the process by which a state changes a gender marker on a person's state-issued identification. Many transgender people choose to revise the gender marker on their identity documents so that it matches the gender they live every day. Read more about the importance of accurate identity documents in in Paying an Unfair Price: The Financial Penalty for Being Transgender in America or visit our maps on identity documents laws and policies.

Driver's License Laws



- State accepts documentation from a broad range of licensed professionals in order to change gender marker. Does not require sex reassignment surgery (14 states + D.C.)
- State requires documentation from by a limited range of licensed professionals in order to change gender marker. Does not require sex reassignment surgery (14 states)
- State requires burdensome proof of clinical treatment in order to change gender marker. Does not require sex reassignment surgery (4 states)
- State has unclear, unknown or unwritten policy regarding gender marker changes (4 states)
- State requires proof of sex reassignment surgery, court order, and/or amended birth certificate in order to change gender marker (14 states)

Percent of Transgender People Who Have Successfully Updated Identity Documents



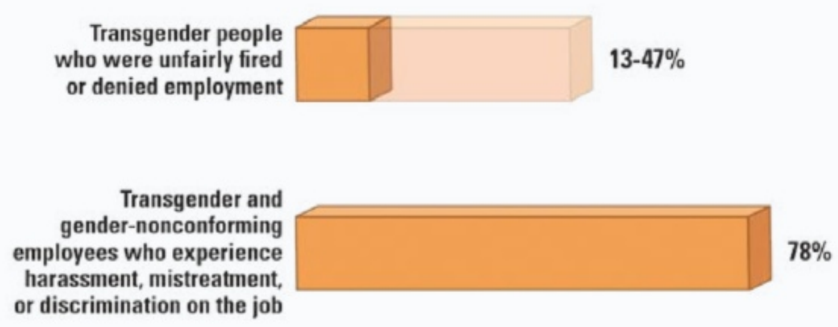
Source: Jaime M. Grant, Lisa A. Mottet, Justin Tanis, Jack Harrison, Jody L. Herman, and Mara Keisling, Injustice At Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011.

NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

Employment non-discrimination laws protect transgender people from being unfairly fired, not hired, or discriminated against in the workplace by private employers. States may also pass laws protecting transgender people from housing, public accommodations, and housing discrimination. Read more about employment discrimination and its impacts in A Broken Bargain for Transgender Workers or visit our state and local nondiscrimination maps.

Employment Non-Discrimination Laws

Transgender Workplace Discrimination



Sources: M.V. Lee, Badgett, Holning Lau, Brad Sears, and Deborah Ho, "Bias in the Workplace: Consistent Evidence of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Discrimination," *The Williams Institute*, June 2007. Deena Fidas and Liz Cooper, "The Cost of the Closet and the Rewards of Inclusion," Human Rights Campaign Foundation, May 2014.

- Employment non-discrimination law covers sexual orientation and gender identity (19 states + D.C.)
- Employment non-discrimination law covers only sexual orientation, though federal law offers some protections (see note) (3 states)
- No employment non-discrimination law covering sexual orientation or gender identity, though federal law offers some protections (see note) (28 states)
- State has law preventing passage or enforcement of local nondiscrimination laws

NOTE: Various rulings by the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission extend Title VII's prohibition on sex discrimination to prohibit discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming people. However, EEOC rulings are not binding on private employers and federal courts may rule differently. This map also only reflects states that have statewide statutes banning discrimination in private employment. Many states have executive orders or laws that protect all public employees, and many large cities and other localities have ordinances, executive orders, or personnel policies that protect local employees and some employees of local businesses. These laws, regulations and executive orders are not reflected on this map. Some states may interpret "gender" to include gender identity/expression. Such states are not reflected on this map.

Maps Courtesy: Movement Advancement Project | www.lgbtmap.org

WORLDWIDE TRANSGENDER SURGERY SNAPSHOT

Did you know it is estimated that medical students in the United States spend approximately five hours researching complications and risks among the LGBTQ community? Did you know, according to a report on America Tonight, the medical community is "ill-prepared and unwilling" to help transgender patients? Because, it seems, education is scarce on the topic and bigotry is in full swing.

With gender-affirming surgery rapidly on the rise, accurate numbers are hard to come by; according to surgeryencyclopedia.com, reliable statistics are tough to obtain due to many of the procedures being conducted in private facilities, but they are estimated to be between 100 and 500 per year in the US. Compare that to the statistic that fewer than 30 qualified surgeons are in the US, and the severe shortage of knowledge and training on the subject is obvious. Outside of the US, gender-affirming surgery is also on the rise [projected to be two to five times larger]. According to Patient, a website written by UK doctors, it is estimated that the number presenting for treatment for gender variance, is doubling every 6.5 years.

According to Bloomberg.com, "demand for gender identity services are surging worldwide, often overwhelming government-subsidized centers. London's Charing Cross Hospital, whose gender identity clinic opened in 1966, had 364 people on a waiting list for surgery at the end of September. Last month, it received 27 new referrals, almost three times the number of operations performed, with patients waiting an average of 72 weeks."

Yet no country can take the crown away from Thailand. The country is at the height of what is known as "medical tourism." People from all over the world flock to Thailand and Bloomberg.com reports at least 90% of clients are from outside of the country, mostly China, the Middle East and Australia. In the US, the cost for male to female reassignment is $7,000 to $24,000. The cost for female to male reassignment can exceed $50,000. In Thailand? A third of that cost. Thailand is also appealing for the surgery because of the availability factor. "Surgeons say that at least 100 Thai doctors are qualified to perform the operations. Websites show that at least 20 Thai medical centers perform them, including Bumrungrad Hospital and Bangkok Dusit Medical Services," says Bloomberg.com.

In some cases, however, surgery isn't always by personal choice, but rather forced into a gender change by outside forces. Take into account places like Iran where being gay is punishable by execution, Iranians will travel to Bangkok for surgery, pressured into changing gender identities. And because of the sheer number of people traveling to the city each year to have the procedure, theinvestigativefund.org reports Bangkok "is a place that exerts enormous influence in defining and shaping transgender identity worldwide."

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REIG

ning OVER what is right

The Queens of Ireland and England answer the call for gay rights

The Stonewall Riots came first. Then it was AIDs, morphing into the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy for the military. Eventually, the right to marry as a "same sex" couple came into question. The gay rights movement in the United States has been over forty years of pain, struggle and oppression. And just as it has been a struggle here on American soil, the battle for gay rights is everywhere, spanning across all cultures. In the fight for international gay rights, two drag queens reign supreme in being heard, both representing cultures with a strict outlook on what is right and being told gay men are very, very wrong.

Self-dubbed an "accidental activist," Panti Bliss, stage name of Rory O'Neill, has become an icon to a Catholic nation in a short span of time following two decades of performing as Panti. Beginning with an appearance on a popular talk show to argue gay rights at the start of last year, O'Neill called out two popular newspaper columnists by name and the Iona Institute (a Catholic Lobby Group), claiming media outlets were perpetrating homophobia. This prompted those mentioned in the interview to sue the network, as well as O'Neill. Choosing to avoid complications, the network "quietly" settled the case for €84,000 ($94,000)

BY **KAYLEEN TAYLOR**

and, in doing so, created a firestorm known as Pantigate. The ripple effect was staggering, and a national conversation began in a few short weeks: debates were made on the floor of Ireland's Parliament, news sources discussed the issue at length and even shirts with "I'm on Team Panti" were being sported across the conservative country.

Nearly a month after the firestorm begun, the Abbey Theater in Dublin asked O'Neill to address the issue on stage as part of "The Noble Call," a platform offered by the theater featuring an artist, journalist, historian or actor to give a personal response in song, poetry or the spoken word. This portion of the theater's night follows an old Irish tradition of storytelling. In a short, ten-minute speech, Fintan O'Toole, an Irish Times Columnist, dubbed Panti's time on stage as "the most eloquent Irish Speech in 200 years." Simple and deeply moving, O'Neill captivated the country and shared what it was like to be a gay man in a country which is consistently judging you. He shared how he "checks" himself at every stoplight to

make sure he doesn't appear too gay, constantly obsessing over what is it that "gives the gay away." He opened up about how much he hates himself for the urge to do so, to have the urge to somehow pass off as a straight man. O'Neill displays his anger toward the oppression he feels as a gay man eloquently and openly without shame or apology. He describes what it feels like to watch reasoned debates on the news "about you, what kind of person you are." He delves deeper, whether or not as a gay man he is destroying marriage, destroying children and "whether God herself thinks you're an abomination."

O'Neill took the nation by storm with his humor and intelligence, the ease in the way he presented such an intense, complicated, political nightmare, managing to call out straight people who tell him what homophobia is on a daily basis and he does it without being vicious or vengeful. "I don't hate you for being homophobic," O'Neill concludes, "I hate you for doing that to me." The video of the speech was posted online and soon was everywhere, prompting O'Neill to become a figurehead for the gay marriage movement in Ireland, including international headlines. The proud, graceful queen soon became a prominent voice in a "yes" campaign for gay marriage. And in May of 2015, a year after the speech, one chapter of the powerful movement closed as Ireland became the first nation to favor marriage between two people without distinction to sex by popular vote (62.1%).

O'Neill's documentary, "The Queen of Ireland" has recently opened in theaters in Ireland and highlights Panti's rise to an accidental activist for Irish Gay Rights. Irish Times dubbed the documentary "The most social documentary of the century," and the movie came out just in time as Ireland's Marriage Act 2015 officially signed into law in October. Another mentionable fact about Irish law: in July a law was passed in Ireland allowing transgender peoples to legally change their gender based solely on self-identification.

Ireland's neighbor to the right of the sea has its own controversy stirring in the underground "gaysian" scene. The unique British scene features Muslim drag queens celebrating not only one's sexuality, but embraces the Asian culture. "I fast, I pray, I believe in one god," Asifa Lahore told the *Huffington Post, UK*. Lahore is the stage

O'Neill displays his anger toward the oppression he feels as a gay man eloquently and openly without shame or apology.

name of Asif Quraishi, Britain's first out and proud Muslim drag queen. "I'm gay, I'm Muslim, I'm a drag queen, I'm British, and I'm a Pakastani. People say that all these things shouldn't fit together but hey, here I am."

First coming out and taking the stage as Asifa in 2011, Lahore recently made headlines by being the prominent figure in a documentary of the underground scene, aptly named Muslim Drag Queens. The groundbreaking film, narrated by LGBTQ activist Sir Ian McKellen, came out to overwhelming response, including death threats. Shrugging danger away, Lahore felt it was more important to get the message out amid silent discussions, than to keep putting it in the dark. "I'm going to say fuck you to all those who send death threats, and I'm gonna look fabulous while doing it," Lahore stated before its release. Underneath the threats, underneath people commenting "you can't be Muslim and gay," came something else. Hope. "Just know you inspire a generation," @JadeCrowe15 tweeted. "You are such a brave and amazing human being. So much courage," @JulieLedesma commented. These posts paralleled comments such as "May Allah guide you guys to the straight path, literally," and "I will kill you with my bare hands."

Lahore did look fabulous as he bravely faced the opposition publicly, voicing his religion and fierce sexuality as a natural fit to the Islamic faith. He has told reporters over and over again how he never felt the conflict between being gay and being Muslim; the pressure in viewing it as wrong mainly coming from outside forces, particularly within the strict, religious community. For every one person at the "Gaysian" clubs, there are 10 or 20 still at home afraid to come out and have a good time, and Lahore is quick to defend embracing both aspects into one identity. Lahore has been arguing the Quran, like many religious texts, is up to interpretation, claiming it's very vague in its condemnation of homosexuality. "At the end of the day, all Muslims believe that we are judged at the end of our life and I believe that," the IBTimes UK quoted Lahore as saying. "I would like to face Allah on the Day of Judgment and say I was

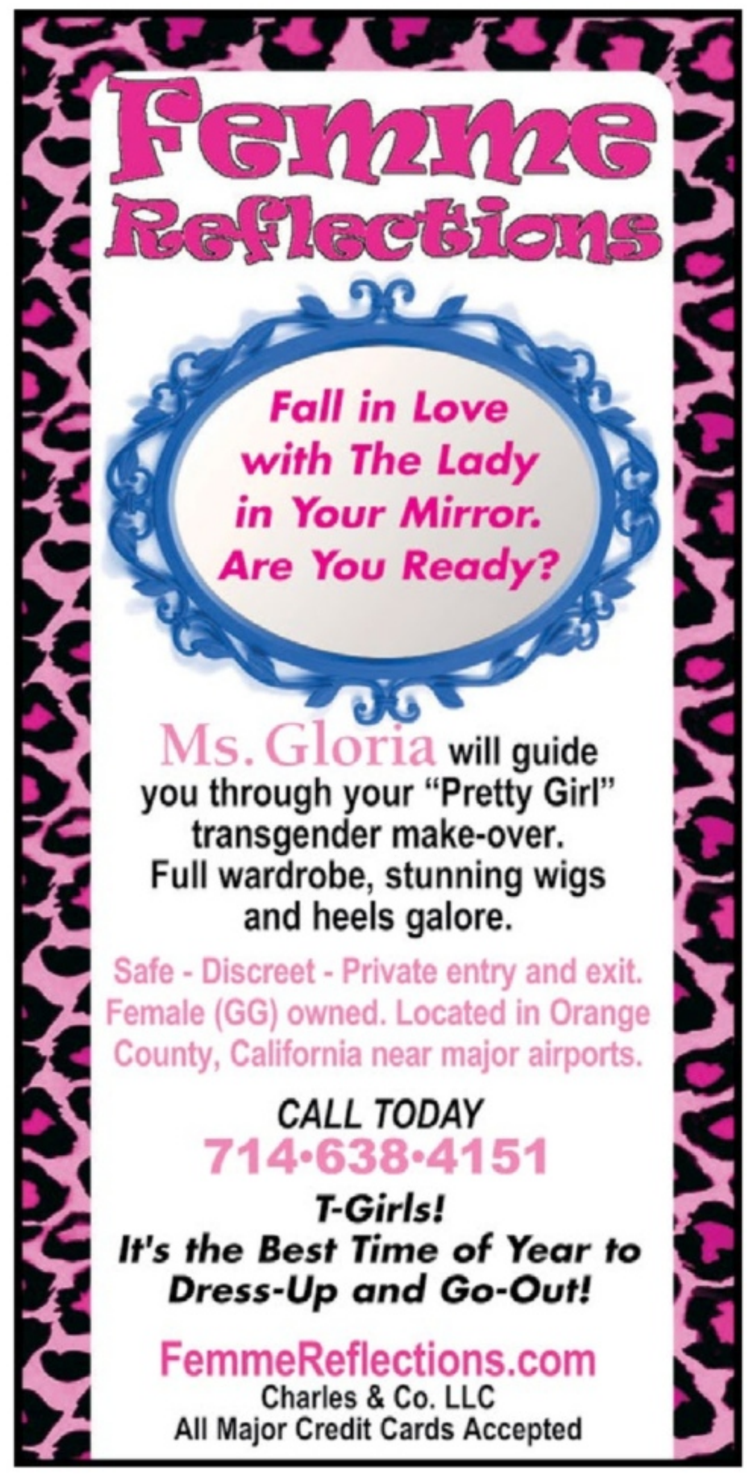
"I'm gay, I'm Muslim, I'm a drag queen, I'm British, and I'm a Pakastani. People say that all these things shouldn't fit together but hey, here I am."

~ Asifa Lahore

authentic, I was honest with myself and those around me. It is him that will judge us, not those around us." And, like O'Neill feeling self-oppression caused by outside influences, Lahore too has made a bold claim for those judging a silenced culture. "I think it's a form of terrorism that British gay Muslims aren't getting the support and advice and guidance they need to just be themselves in the UK," he told the Huffington Post. The documentary has forced the silent, club culture into a loud, international discussion on the effects of being Muslim and gay, bringing recognition to the enforced choice of religion over one's happiness.

The film has come into controversy of a different type since its release in 2015. Kieran Yates made a short film, entitled Muslim Drag Queens in January and it took the internet by storm according to dazeddigital.com, and was left out of the full-length documentary, presented by Channel 4. After Yates made the claim to dazeddigital that she was left out because she was a minority in a white man's film world. A spokesperson from Channel 4 responded, claiming "the film we have commissioned is editorially independent of the original short film (Yates) worked on for Guardian Films. (Yates) signed over all her rights to Guardian Films on their short films," and "wholly reject" Yates' claim of being left out because of her ethnic background.

By delving deep into international gay rights, a whole other world begins to develop, where a common platform arises and asks an underlying question: in the end, who will be judged? What will the enemies of free will face when there is nowhere else to go? For now, it is comforting to know there are brave people still roaming this earth to take it upon themselves to form a voice for a community too long kept at bay, too long kept in the shadows of fear and doubt. O'Neill and Lahore represent a light in an uphill battle, heroic voices revealing the fight for gay rights is far from over.



THE CULTURES OF

Two Spirit

In what is now the **United States and Canada**, many Native American and First Nations peoples recognised the existence of more than two genders, such as the Zuñi male-bodied Ła'mana, the Lakota male-bodied winkte and the Mohave male-bodied alyhaa and female-bodied hwamee. Such people were previously referred to as berdache but are now referred to as Two-Spirit.

In **Mexico**, the Zapotec culture includes a third gender in the form of the Muxe. Two-spirit individuals are viewed in some tribes as having two identities occupying one body. Their dress is usually a mixture of traditionally male and traditionally female articles, or they may dress as a man one day, and a woman on another. Both maleand female-bodied two-spirits have been documented "in over 130 North American tribes, in every region of the continent. According to Dr. Sabine Lang, a German anthropologist, many tribes have distinct gender and social roles.

Some specific roles sometimes held by male assigned at birth two-spirits include: conveyors of oral traditions and songs (**Yuki**); foretellers of the future (**Winnebago, Oglala Lakota**); conferrers of lucky names on children or adults (**Oglala Lakota, Tohono O'odham**); potters (**Zuni, Navajo, Tohono O'odham**); matchmakers (**Cheyenne, Omaha, Oglala Lakota**); makers of feather regalia for dances (**Maidu**); special role players in the Sun Dance (**Crow, Hidatsa, Oglala Lakota**).

Fa'afafine & Māhū

Fa'afafine are a third-gender people of **Samoa and the Samoan diaspora**. A recognized identity/role since at least the early 20th century in Samoan society, and some theorize an integral part of traditional Samoan culture, fa'afafine are male at birth, and explicitly embody both masculine and feminine gender traits, fashioned in a way unique to this part of the world. The word fa'afafine includes the causative prefix fa'a–, meaning "in the manner of ", and the word fafine, meaning "woman". Fa'afafine are known for their hard work and dedication to the family, in the Samoan tradition of tautua. Ideas of the family in Samoa and Polynesia are markedly different from Western constructions, and include all the members of a sa, or communal family within the fa'amatai family systems. It is a mistake to attribute a Western interpretation to fa'afafine by mislabeling them as "gay," "homosexual," or "drag queens." In Samoa, people claim that there is no such thing as being "gay" or "homosexual." Fa'afafine, as a third gender, have sexual relationships almost exclusively with men who do not identify as fa'afafine, and sometimes with women, but apparently not with other fa'afafine. This third gender is so well-accepted in Samoan culture that most Samoans state that they have friendship relationships with at least one fa'afafine; it is, however, not totally accepted in other communities, such as some Catholic groups and traditional leaders.

Māhū in traditional **Hawaiian or Kanaka Maoli and Tahitian or Maohi** cultures are third gender persons with traditional roles within Kanaka Maoli and Maohi society, similar to Tongan fakaleiti and Samoan fa'afafine and analogous to the Neapolitan femminiello. In Hawai'i, being māhū is accepted. For those who do not accept māhū people, they are not Hawaiian.

terstory

Iphis

According to the Roman poet Ovid's Metamorphoses, Iphis (or Iphys) was the daughter of Telethusa and Ligdus in **Crete**. Ligdus had threatened to kill his pregnant wife's child if it wasn't a boy. Telethusa despaired, but was visited in the middle of the night by the Egyptian goddess Isis, attended by Anubis, Bubastis and Apis, who advised her to accept whatever was going to happen after the child's birth, guaranteeing assistance to the woman. When Telethusa gave birth to a girl, she concealed her daughter's sex from her husband and raised her daughter as a boy. Ligdus named the daughter, who he believed was a son, Iphis after his own father (the child's grandfather), and Telethusa was glad to have her named that as the gender-neutral name would fit in any case.

As Iphis reached the age of adolescence, Ligdus, still unaware of the truth, arranged for his "son" to marry the beautiful Ianthe, daughter of Telestes. Naturally, Ianthe didn't know the truth either and so she fell in love with Iphis, taking her for a man like everyone else did. Iphis too fell deeply in love with Ianthe, and prayed to Juno to help her out of the tricky situation of the upcoming marriage with Ianthe being desired but impossible because of Iphis' true sex. One day before the wedding, the deeply concerned Telethusa brought Iphis to the temple of Isis and prayed to the goddess to help her daughter. Isis responded by transforming Iphis into a man. The male Iphis married Ianthe and the two lived happily ever after, their marriage being presided over by Juno, Juno, Venus, and Hymenaios, the god of marriage.

Ardhanarishvara

The name Ardhanarishvara means "the Lord who is half woman." Ardhanarishvara is a composite androgynous form of the **Hindu** god Shiva and his consort Parvati (also known as Devi, Shakti and Uma in this icon).

Ardhanarishvara is depicted as half male and half female, split down the middle. The right half is usually the male Shiva, illustrating his traditional attributes. The earliest Ardhanarishvara images are dated to the Kushan period, starting from the first century CE. Its iconography evolved and was perfected in the Gupta era. The Puranas and various iconographic treatises write about the mythology and iconography of Ardhanarishvara.

While Ardhanarishvara remains a popular iconographic form found in most Shiva temples throughout India, very few temples are dedicated to this deity. Ardhanarishvara represents the synthesis of masculine and feminine energies of the universe (Purusha and Prakriti) and illustrates how Shakti, the female principle of God, is inseparable from (or the same as, according to some interpretations) Shiva, the male principle of God. The union of these principles is exalted as the root and womb of all creation. Another view is that Ardhanarishvara is a symbol of Shiva's all-pervasive nature.

Beauty

Costa Rica

Temporarily shrink pores by combining **equal parts orange juice and water**, then swab across your face (avoid your eyes!) with a cotton ball. Leave the mixture on your skin for a few minutes then rinse. Do you have redness on your elbows or armpits? Add juice of two lemons to one tablespoon of baking soda. Rub the past onto skin and leave it for 20 minutes before rinsing it off.

BY **KAYLEEN TAYLOR**

Hacks from Around the World

Philippines

Using aloe in your hair? That's what the ladies of the Philippines do to make hair glossy. Break a leaf (not the goop you find in stores, but an actual aloe plant) and massage the juice into your scalp, rinse off and enjoy the shine. The ladies also have a trick to smooth rough skin: combine ¼ cup fresh ginger with equal parts finely chopped limes and rub mixture into affected areas to smooth out.

Italy

In Italy, to prevent hair damage and boost shine, they make an **egg-white mask**. Mix two egg whites into a frothy foam and apply to wet hair for 10 minutes before shampooing away.

China

Rice water is used as a facial cleanse with antioxidants to help prevent premature skin aging. To make, soak Chinese rice (experiment with different types for different results) in bottled water for 20 minutes then strain the rice from the water. Place a washcloth into the water and then apply the dampened cloth onto your face for 10 minutes. This treatment only needs to be done once a week for results.

Singapore

Coat ends of hair with a few drops of **coconut oil** before bed, leaving overnight to keep hair frizz-free for the next day. For glowing skin, in Singapore they mash either **avocado or papaya** and slather onto face. Let sit for 15 minutes then rinse off. They are taking advantage of the elements found in these fruits- avocado is loaded with skin-friendly oils and papaya has a naturally occurring exfoliating enzyme.

Turkey

Daisy water is used as a highlight booster in this country for people with blond or light brown hair. Boil one cup of daisies in two cups of water for five minutes. Remove the daisies when cool then pour over your hair and let air dry. After several sessions, you should see some results using this natural technique.

Japan

To help exfoliate skin and lighten age spots or other discoloration, the beautiful ladies of this Asian country take **sake baths**. Try it yourself! Add 3 or 4 six ounce glasses of any kind of sake to your bath water. Kojicated acid in the sake is what helps renew skin and erase the wear and tear of everyday life.

Mexico

The ladies of Mexico learned the trick to **curl your lashes using a spoon**. Though it may feel awkward at first once you try it out you'll be amazed at how easy this technique is! You can also use the spoon to help keep mascara smudges from getting onto your skin and as a guide for applying winged eyeliner.

Brazil

In this country where the sun shines year round, the ladies of Brazil know how to ease the sting of sunburn using nothing but **oats and gauze**. First place the oatmeal flakes into gauze and twist to make a little sack, tie around the bath tub faucet and then fill the tub with cool water. Bathe for 20 minutes to soak up the anti-inflammatory properties of the grain and cool your pained skin.

Greece

Another tropical country where the sun shines and humidity is vast, the ladies of Greece will deep clean their hair and remove build-up by using **rosemary water**. Here's how to do the simple trick: Boil fresh rosemary in water, let cool completely before removing the rosemary sprigs from the water and pouring over your hair. An easy and natural way to get your hair squeaky clean.

Romania

For pretty nails, the ladies of Romania make a soak using **warm olive oil and a few drops of Vitamin A** to help moisturize and make nails less prone to splitting or peeling. It is recommended to do this treatment every two weeks.

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INTERI

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Transgender beauty comes from all over the globe!

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NATIONAL

RUSSIA

@LinaCavalliXXX

www.linacavalli.com

PHOTOS BY: Endla Studio Tallinn

LINA CAVALLI

Where are you from and where are you living now?

Originally I am from Russia and I live in Saint-Petersburg.

What is your heritage?

I am a hot mix, one quarter Spanish (my grandma is from Spain) and 3 quarters Russian .

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

My city is Saint-Petersburg, the culture capital of Russia. It has another name 'North Venice', because Peter I, founder of the city wanted to build a second Venice.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Russia?

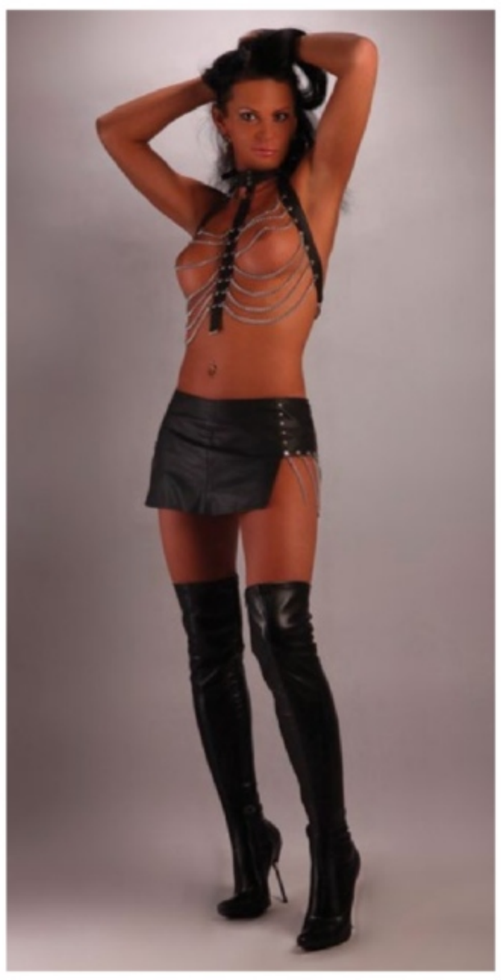
Saint Petersburg is the most open mind and European city in Russia, the historical window to Europe. The most interesting traditions in Saint-Petersburg are drawbridges during White Nights in summer. Multi-ton construction slowly rises and opens the way for ships. It's an exciting view.

What does it mean to be transgender in Russia?

To have to constantly hide who you are. Russians mostly don't accept transgender people.

What is your favorite travel destination?

I like very much Los Angeles and Milan (Italy), also I like Riga (Latvia) - very quiet small city.



SADIE KROSS

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I was born and raised in Finland, and still living there.

What is your heritage?

My both parents are Finns, so my roots are fully Finn.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

I was raised in capital area. The population is roughly 1 million now; in global standards it's not quite a big city where I grew-up. There wasn't room to be different, and in my case it meant being bullied. It taught me to survive, but at the same time isolated me from others. There's a shy and somewhat skeptical person inside me, even though I'm social and like to do bold things. It has also taught me emphatic and caring for others.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Finland?

I think Finns don't have any special traditions. It's a lot like any Western culture. Unique things we have are sauna, which can be found from almost every house, and mämmi. The latter one is something totally disgusting, but many Finns love it.

What does it mean to be transgender in Finland?

Generally not many transgender people want to be in public, so I'm one of those few who is publicly transgender. In bigger cities it doesn't necessarily cause any issues, but in the countryside it may be a different thing. I think for Finns trans issues are still a somewhat unknown subject; general public really doesn't have an idea what it means. Also legislation is behind compared to other European countries, like the UK. If one want to be officially a female you have to be sterile (done by medication). No person under 18 years can get diagnosis or HRT. And getting a diagnosis can take over a year. For young people it's definitely a hard situation. There's still room for improvements.

What is your favorite travel destination?

I haven't traveled a lot, but London is my favorite so far. I like to visit more cities than beach destinations. Or then visiting historical places and learning about the past.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

This is a tough one. I've become too old and my partying days are in the past. Besides, in Finland, there are really no places to hangout. Here probably my own or a friend's place. If traveling the main thing I want to do is to get to know the local culture and people. I like to get new experiences and learn new stuff.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

UNDIN

PHOTOS BY: Alessandro Pelosi
Lennart Takanen

@SadieKross

www.uk-tgirls.com/tour/models/sadie-kross.html

PHOTO BY: Pentti Manninen

CLEO KAMBUGU

The Pearl of Africa

A film by Jonny Von Wallström

Jonny von Wallström is an accomplished Swedish cinematographer who later became a self shooting director and producer. Having spent most his life creating beautiful imagery for others he moved on to make his directorial debut with *Zero Silence* in 2011. A documentary which premiered at Sheffield Doc/Fest. *The Pearl Of Africa* is his first feature.

Forced to leave her loving boyfriend behind. Trans woman Cleopatra Kambugu sets out to fight for her right to love. In one of the world's most transphobic places, Uganda.

The Pearl of Africa is a story about Cleopatra Kambugu, a 28 year old Ugandan transgender girl. Biologically born male, but against all odds, transitioning into the woman she knows she was born to be. Through an intimate fight for love in Uganda, one of the world's most transphobic places. We get an insight into what it means to love as trans. It is a story of love & hate. As she against all odds, is determined to become the first accepted trans person in Uganda. Unlike many films that explore themes related to human rights, The Pearl of Africa focuses on telling a universal love story in an extreme circumstance.

Cleo's story has been featured in some of the world's largest medias such as; *The Huffington Post*, CNN, *The Guardian*, MSN, AOL and *This Is Africa*. With CNN naming it one of the best African shows to ditch Netflix's success series "House Of Cards" for.

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PHOTOS BY: Johnny Von Wallström

AUSTRALIA

MARISSA MINXX

Where are you from and where are you living now?
I was born in Brisbane, Australia. I'm currently living in Sydney in a gorgeous apartment.

What is your heritage?
I have an Australian mother and Polish father.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?
I grew up in the sunshine state of Queensland, Brisbane. Growing up there was extremely judgmental and close minded, so my teen years were torture; I was always bullied, and always seemed to stick out in a crowd. It's a smaller city and the GBLT scene is very tiny. So, I wanted to move to a city where NO ONE knew me, and I had time to find myself (best thing I ever did).

PHOTOS BY: Sam Melborne

What, if any, are the cultural beauty rituals/secrets of Australia?
For any of you who plan on visiting Australia — my beauty advice would be water, moisturizer, and sunscreen (SPF is a MUST!)

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?
In my spare time I'm a major fan of doing relaxation therapy deprivation tanks. They are a sound proof completely pitch black pod filled with water with Epsom salts. You basically just go in it for an hour or so and relax and let your mind do the rest...

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

@marissaminxx

FIRM

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I am living in Bangkok, Thailand right now. That's also the place I was born.

What is your heritage?

I am Thai, but my grandmother is from China, so I have some Chinese blood inside as well.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

I grew up on the outskirts of Bangkok, living with my mother and my sister. My friends were mostly girls; I played with girls and also felt I was one of them already at that time. In my mother's house everybody was female (mother, aunt, sister and other relatives). My father died when I was only 3 and I can't really remember him. My mom and my older sister provided me with a lovely and nice childhood.

What are some of special traditions or cultural values of Thailand?

Thailand is the land of smiles; Thai people are very kind and warm hearted. We also love our national traditional cultural festivals; they are very important for all of us and are the highlights of the year. Most famous are Songkran festival in April and Loy Kratong in November, which are well known outside Thailand as well. Muay Thai and traditional Thai Dance are famous.

What does it mean to be transgender in Thailand?

Besides beautiful nature, beaches and delicious food, Thailand is also famous for its beautiful Transgender women, called Ladyboys here. On the surface Ladyboys have their freedom and look like they are accepted in Thai society, but actually it is very hard to have the same rights and position as female and male in society. Especially in the daily life such as school and work it is very hard to get accepted and to find a decent place in the society.

What is your favorite travel destination?

My favorite travel destination is Hong Kong. I have been there twice and love it.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

In Thailand I love to go to the island Koh Samed (Rayong) with its beautiful beaches. In Bangkok I love shopping in Central World, as every girl does (smile).

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

THALA ONAM

PHOTOS By: Chokchai, Jade

KIMBER LEE

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I was born in Schwandorf, a small town in Bavaria, near Munich. I'm moving soon to Vienna, Austria where my boyfriend is from.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

In my hometown, the people are very traditional and not as open minded as people in bigger German cities like Berlin or Munich.

What does it mean to be transgender in Germany?

It was very hard for me to grow up here, because most people didn't understand or support my change in the beginning, but that changed in the last few years, so I'm really happy now with everything.

What is your favorite travel destination?

My favorite German city is Berlin, its very big, very crazy, very loud. I had amazing nights there. You have a lot of good clubs and locations where you can have a good time. The people there are very tolerant...nobody cares how you look or what your gender is.

In my free time I love to travel, see different places and enjoy my life. I go out a lot together with my friends and dance the whole night. But when I need a break I come back to my parents' home and enjoy the silence of the small city I'm from. I've worked in the adult industry since I was 18 years old; I love my job and never wanted to do something else. I'm very proud so far of all the work I have done and where I am now. My parents support me with everything I do, I'm very thankful for that because I can't imagine what I would do without them. The fact that they accept me and love me as I am is very important, because your family will be always a part of you. You can choose or change your friends or the people around you, but not your family.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

GERMANY

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PHOTOS BY: Manuel Jacob

TEXAS

TRACY J. HAYEK (TRIXXY VON TEASE)

Where are you from and where are you living now?

Born in Houston, Texas—a great place to party and friendly folks here—I still live in Houston and I'm a proud Texan.

What is your heritage?

People get confused about this, it's okay haha. I'm German, Czech, Native American and Spaniard.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

Raised in Pasadena, Texas as an artist and musician who became a geek of horror movies. I collect horror movie toys, figures and autographs from '80s horror icons including Elvira, Jennifer Tilly, and Bruce Campbell. I'm a Rockstar diva, goofy, intelligent with a sarcastic blunt bitch of an attitude.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of the U.S.?

Freedom and Freedom of speech. we have many perks for standing up for what we believe in as rights and trials. We have different types of support communities for everyone from the LGBT community, which is a big help for an entire population of people/ genders who want that comfortable lifestyle and to become safe.

What does it mean to be transgender in the U.S.?

Well, honestly I did everything myself, as in no help, nor had friends to ask or support my decision on my transition as I claim to be an individual a.k.a. Self-Made.

I am glad we have more freedom to express our rights to be ourselves, I've never had a problem with people in public humiliating me, I guess the tattoos and the piss off look intimidate people, but I'm a sweetheart…or so I've been told.

My words of wisdom to other transgender people or anyone afraid/ shy to date a trans:

Be yourself, Know there is always someone going to judge you on every decision, so kill them with a smile and enjoy life as a destination to a new journey of happiness everyday.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

We have a Club in my town called Numbers Nightclub where everybody is welcome.

My buddy Michelle Austin (Adult T.S. Porn Actress) started there, where everyone is accepted.

When I do travel, I like to visit the restaurants and taste the different foods and beverages then like to walk in the night with the city lights or stars shining so bright.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

@TSTrixxyJ

www.trixxyvontease.xxx

PHOTOS BY: Damien Cain

SHELBE CHANG

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I originally from Taipei, Taiwan and I'm currently living in Los Angeles.

What is your heritage?
Taiwanese.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

The first 10 years of my childhood was in Taiwan therefore my education and knowledge roots were very conservative and Asian traditional. I immigrated to the US when I was 12 years old. Beside the English language that I was learning in school, I was also learning and understood American culture and people. As of me today in the real world, often time my thinking, philosophy and theories are more towards "East Meet West" attitude.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Taiwan?

In recent years, the concept of Taiwanese multiculturalism has been proposed as a relatively apolitical alternative view. This has allowed for the inclusion of mainlanders and other minority groups into the continuing re-definition of Taiwanese culture as collectively held systems of meaning and customary patterns of thought and behavior shared by the people of Taiwan.

What does it mean to be transgender in Taiwan?

I haven't being back for about 10 years; however, I do know that in the early days, being transgender is tough. Taiwan has a culture which gives little room for self-expression or even self-respect, and allows even less to transgender people. Taiwan is not really Chinese, though it does share a lot of the cultural morals of China. Some of these include a very strong sense of the division between male and female, and a very different type of moral system than we usually see in the West.

For example, the disdain which Taiwanese culture has for transgender people is the standard term used in regard to transgender people from Thailand, which is *renyao*. This translates directly as "human monster." This is used without irony, without self-examination. In December 2013, Taiwan's Ministry of Health and Welfare decided to allow people to change their legal gender without transitioning. The ministry concluded that individuals intending to change their legal gender need not go through any medical procedures, including psychiatric evaluation.

What is your favorite travel destination?

For the most part, my favorite travel destination will be visiting back to Taiwan. I also would love to check out the mainland China.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

My favorite hangout spot will be the malls and the night market street food in Taiwan. However, I also enjoyed sightseeing away from the city and some historical spots or museums.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

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PHOTOS BY: Altomic Visuals, Touch Brandon, Otola Photography and Adam Bouska

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www.shelesbianPOV.com
www.nikkiladyboys.com

PHOTOS BY: Nikki Montero, Marcelo Panda

NIKKI MONTERO

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I am from a small town in the south of Chile called Laja, and I live in the capital Santiago de Chile now, small town with big time dreams.

What is your heritage?

100% Chilean, my grand-parents are from the south of Chile with some blood of mapuche (native indian at the south) but mixed with Spanish that came here on the early Chile days.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

I grew up in Laja, a small town back then with only 30,000 people. It had no influence at all, very close minded people and nobody knows anything about GLBT community or anything related with that.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Chile?

I would say it is the Religion, Catholic or Evangelic, but they are all Christian, all of them. No atheist people down there for the most part, unlike Santiago, where everyone is an atheist.

What, if any, are the cultural beauty rituals/secrets of Chile?

It might be to sleep a lot; I can assure there is no other secret, at least from the region I come from.

What does it mean to be transgender in Chile?

Nonexistent. These days a few escorts are visiting down there and it is a huge thing I guess to see a tranny girl.

What is your favorite travel destination?

London, UK.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

I have not visited my hometown now for six years maybe. I moved to Santiago for good. When traveling I to go to tranny clubs and make some candid pics, also I attend rock concerts.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

CANADA

SHEMALE ALLISON

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I am from Cornwall, ON and I currently live in Toronto.

What is your heritage?

I am French/Irish Canadian.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

Growing up in Cornwall wasn't easy it was a really small town back then. We moved to Hamilton when I was young. Figuring out I was Trans in "Steel Town" wasn't easy and that's why I moved to Toronto. I think what makes Toronto so beautiful is its willingness and openness to accept others diversity, and the inclusion this city has towards its' Trans identified citizens is just inspiring.

What does it mean to be transgender in Canada?

Toronto has an incredible Trans community with old and new Trans women coming together to celebrate one another. I feel safe being me here. Even though I pass when I lived in Hamilton I didn't feel nearly as safe as I do here in Toronto.

What is your favorite travel destination?

Europe. I've only been once but I'm already saving to go back.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

I have a ritual that when I travel, no matter where I go I have to try whatever the delicacy of that region is. Whether it's squid or dairy or even bread I have to try it. So I tend to hang out at smaller quieter places where I can enjoy the food and atmosphere.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has appointed women to 50% of his cabinet positions because "it's 2015".

@ShemaleAllison

www.chaturbate.com/shemaleallison
www.shemalecanada.com/escort/niteflirtallison

PHOTOS BY: Samantha Lauzon

Angelina Valls

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I'm from France and I'm currently living in the french Caribbean (Martinique).

What is your heritage?

I was born and I grew up in Lille (France)

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

I'm from a small poor town in the suburbs of Lille; I still remember seeing from my window every week cars burning—they also set on fire the trash bins in the buildings—lots of violence and drugs. My family was very strict so violence was not part of our lives at home, only outside. I would say that the biggest influence I have in my life is my family. My brother still lives there and it always feels very weird to me every time I go back there seeing the same people who were there when I used to live there. I value my life even more today, I feel blessed and no matter what I will never forget where I come from.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Lille?

Lille was the European Capital of Culture in 2004 and is a haven for art, from the Fine Arts Museum to the Opera, from ballets to concerts, culture is part and parcel of everyday life.

All year round people are delighted by a unique mixture of Flemish traditions and French art de vivre. Thanks to this singularity, Lille offers visitors a delightful blend of Flemish joviality and French elegance.

What does it mean to be transgender in Lille?

I moved to Paris then started my transition there. It's not the easiest place to be a transgender person, there's a lot of discrimination. But it's slowly improving. It's going to take time but hopefully things will change one day like it's happening now in the USA.

What is your favorite travel destination?

New York City

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

I love history so when I travel I always try to learn as much as I can about the culture and visit all kinds of monuments. I have a huge interest in WWII. (I can be boring sometimes lol) Besides that I love traveling and spend time with my friends & family.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

In 2009, France became the first country in the world to remove transsexualism from its list of diseases. Today, transsexual persons are allowed to change their legal sex.

FRANCE

@AngelinaValls

PHOTOS BY: James Smith

AUDREY MBUGUA

Audrey Mbugua is a transgender activist who has been involved in legal actions to fight for the rights of transgender people. In October of 2014 the High Court of Kenya ordered the Kenya National Examinations Council to change Mbugua's name on her academic certificates, which was listed as Andrew, and also to remove the male gender mark on them.

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I am a Kenyan living in the Kiambu County in Central Kenya.

What is your heritage?

I'm an African transgender woman. My second name Mbugua means a person of steel.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

I grew up in Kenya - specifically the Kiambu County. I was born, raised up and live in a village. It is a village devoid of any intellectual stimulation but I love it. I admired my father so much. He knew so much and he taught me how to repair cars and about how things work.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values in Kenya?

We have baby showers, paying dowry but special occasions have been erased thanks to "modernity" and cultural imperialism. We have cultural values such honesty, hard work, purity and courage. But now few Kenyans abide to these values and that is why Kenya is becoming cesspool of moral decadence and turning into a banana republic.

What, if any, are the cultural beauty rituals/secrets in Kenya?

I don't know about cisgender's. But, the transgender community has an initiation ceremony where we sacrifice to our ancestral spirits and they bless us with toughness to stand up against transphobic people. The ceremony is called Irua Ria Agendi and the next ceremony will be held on the 20th of November 2015.

What does it mean to be transgender in Kenya?

It used to be a curse but it is slowly galvanizing transgender people into this indestructible entity that has so much potential I shed a tear when I think how much we are missing when we choose to waste time on irrelevant things. It is comforting to know that most Kenyans now understand that transgender people are not homosexuals. We are not homophobic but we hate the way some gays and heterosexuals stereotype transgender people as homosexual men and lesbians.

What is your favorite travel destination?

The Rift Valley in Kenya; it is breathtaking and it makes me feel connected to nature.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

Kaldis in Nairobi. Amazing food and service.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

PHOTOS BY: Katy Migiro (Reuters)

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BRAZIL

@BIANKANASCIMEN4

www.biankanascimento.com

PHOTOS BY: Isa De Luik

BIANKA NASCIMENTO

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I am from Brazil but currently living in Dublin, Ireland.

What is your heritage?

Even I don't look like it—because I've lived so many years in Europe—my parents are from an Indian Village near the sea in Natal (the capital city of Rio Grande de Norte).

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

I grew up in a very poor area in my city, like a real Favela (slum). My mother put me in charge of keeping company with my grandmother. I would say this influenced me into becoming a very honest person, and if I can help someone I will always do without looking for anything in return.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Brazil?

There are quite a lot I would say, the folklore is one, the traditional dances, carnival etc. People in Brazil like to dance and shake their ass like me. (Lol)

What, if any, are the cultural beauty rituals/secrets of Brazil?

I love looking after my skin; it is something real important for me. I love to have that glow about me.

What does it mean to be transgender in Brazil?

Being transgender for me means I can live as my real person, my true self. I was not born in the right body but the fact that I can change my anatomy makes me think all the effort I have done is well worth it. If I was born again in the next life I want to be transgender again and I really mean it.

What is your favorite travel destination?

Even though I don't like the people I like Dubai. London and Paris are my platonic lovers but the best destination is Amsterdam for sure.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

When I'm traveling I like to hang out in London and Amsterdam. In both places people are really open and friendly. Where I live I don't really hang out; Dublin is a quiet place, nice to live here but not to hang out.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

DAVEENA BADREE

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I am originally from the beautiful twin island republic of Trinidad and Tobago but I currently reside in Queens, New York.

What is your heritage?

I am Trinidadian Indian.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in?

I grew up on the south side of Trinidad in a village called Barrackpore.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Trinidad?

Good food, great people, and happiness.

What, if any, are the cultural beauty rituals/ secrets of Trinidad?

All Indian culture and rituals, all Indian beauty herbs and skin care are natural products like olive oil, aloe, honey, etc. Use them for your hair, skin, and face.

What does it mean to be transgender in Trinidad?

It means my destiny is a little bit different from others.

What is your favorite travel destination?

I usually like visiting my mother land of Trinidad.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

The parks and yoga centers.

TRINIDAD

@daveenabadree

PHOTOS BY: James Smith

PHOTOS BY: Altomic Visuals, Gregory Neudecker

EVA CASSINI

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I am originally from North Carolina but I have lived in many places. Right now I am in Houston, Texas, but by the time this issue comes out I will have moved to Los Angeles, California.

What is your heritage?

My heritage has roots in Irish, German, and British culture. Irish and British on my mother's side and German on my father's side.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

I was born and raised in Cameron, North Carolina, where I had two neighbors and was surrounded by pine tree forests. Looking back, it's very clear who I became was blossoming even then. One of the neighbors had two grand-daughters who were around my age and I would play around the woods a lot with them. We would play "House" where I was the mother, or we would play with dolls. This was my childhood, as opposed to most typical young boys who would be playing sports or horse-playing.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of the US?

Americans celebrate diversity; our culture is a melting-pot of a lot of different people from various ethnicities.

What does it mean to be transgender in the US?

In the United States, being Transgender is currently a very touchy social issue. Even with the enlightenment of transgenderism via the media and celebrities, we still face many legal, medical, and social woes. Some states are very progressive but for the majority of the states that make up America, the main attitude about transgenderism is negative. I do have to make clear that being Transgender in America IS a fortunate thing, as opposed to many countries around the world. With the advances in modern medicine, technology, and the progressive nature of American ideals, one could live happily and transition.

What is your favorite travel destination?

My favorite travel destination is Los Angeles! I make sure to visit at least once every year, especially for the Transgender Erotica Awards.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

Here in Houston, I very much enjoy going out to the clubs and bars. Some places I go to are Cecil's Pub, Numbers Night Club, and Rudyards, which are all located in the Montrose District of Houston. When I travel, I enjoy going anywhere where there are friendly people. When I visit Los Angeles, I always make a point to be a beach bum, drive and see the countryside, and of course got to the clubs like Cobra, Hamburger Mary's, The Oxwood Inn, The Federal, and any others that are fun!

CHEROKEE

@TSJacquie

www.JACQUIEBLU.xxx

PHOTOS BY: Altomic Visuals

JACQUIE BLU

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I come from the historical city of Wilmington, North Carolina, a beach and College town. It has a very active artistic and gay community. I came to California 6 years ago and am currently living in Long Beach.

What is your heritage?

Largely, Native American. I am half Cherokee from my father's side and French from my mother. The Cherokee is mostly dominant, what with my skin tone and high cheekbones. Not only that, I've also never had to deal with much body hair.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

Wilmington has a very active artistic community. I have always been involved with the arts in some form my entire life. I have done everything from working in the Motion Picture industry, recording/mixing/editing for bands and musicians and spent about 20 years working in live theatre, both onstage and off. Since 1999, I have been freelancing as a Video Editor and Audio Mixer/Editor.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Native Americans?

My father worked and traveled a lot so we weren't involved in the Cherokee community all that much, however we would attend Native American Pow Wows regularly. It allowed me to learn about our culture and my heritage and to interact with my native brothers and sisters. I have participated in traditional Cherokee dances and attended a few Sweat Lodges. We believe in Mother Earth and that she supplies us with everything we need. Everything has a spirit, from the smallest rock to the highest tree. We are more in tune with nature, the land and the spirits.

What does it mean to be transgender for Native Americans?

Being transgender in Native American culture is unique. We are honored for having two spirits and are seen as more spiritually gifted. We are beings that contain both the masculine and the feminine heart, mind and spirit. We know and understand both sides. We are looked to as religious leaders and teachers. We are respected. Not all that much in the white man's world.

What is your favorite travel destination?

I have always wanted to visit England ever since I can remember. For some reason, I have always felt drawn there. The Beatles had a tremendous influence on me, so if I ever make it there I must visit the Cavern Club and other Beatles landmarks. I have also always wanted to visit France, but England comes first.

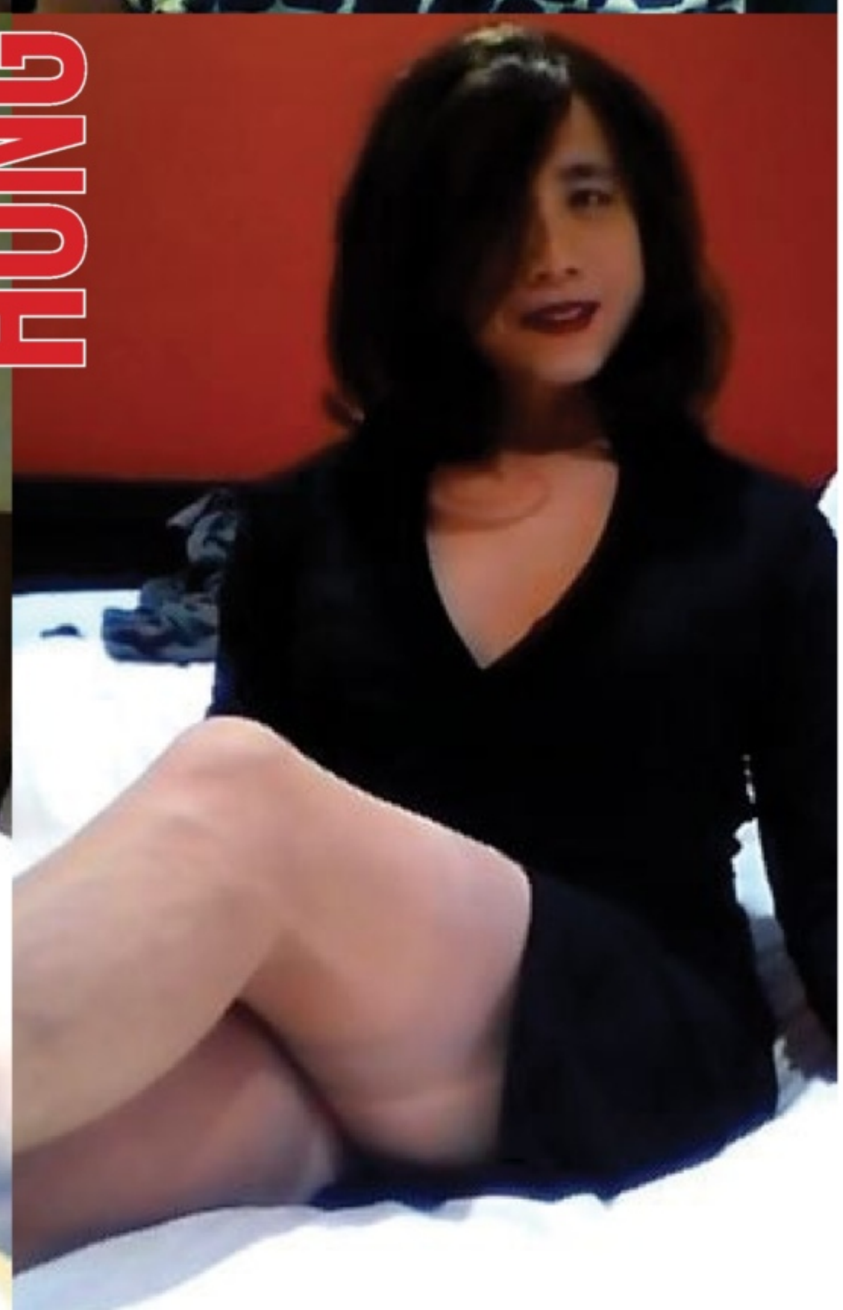
What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

Back east, my favorite hangout is a gay club called Ibiza in downtown Wilmington. It's a fun place to dance and party with your friends. in California, Hamburger Mary's Long Beach is where I get to see my other girlfriends and make new ones. When I visited San Francisco I discovered the very well-known Diva's. I met a lot of nice people and made some new friends. Also while I was there I, I finally got to go to The Power Exchange. I'm not going to tell you about the place here, but I will say I had a blast every time I went.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

JENNIFER WANG

HONG KONG



Where are you from and where are you living now?

I am originally from Hong Kong and moved to USA, San Francisco. I have lived in SF for many decades.

What is your heritage?

I am Chinese, from Hong Kong.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

I grew up in San Francisco. It is a very diverse city as many people already know. I am lucky to live in an area where many lifestyles are accepting and where information about transgender life can be readily found. I am also glad that this city was the force behind many LGBT rights that we enjoy today.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of San Francisco?

This city holds many LGBT events and many other extreme sexual events. The cultural acceptance of so many people is so amazing.

What does it mean to be transgender in San Francisco?

It means to be seen as who we are. I am going through HRT right now to be seen and feel more like who I am inside. This region of the country encourages this belief and is accepting of it.

What is your favorite travel destination?

Do I have to say it....Hawaii.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

I like to hangout online and at Wicked Grounds (a trans friendly kinky coffee shop).

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

plus.google.com/u/0/+JenniferWang8

PHOTOS BY: Jennifer Wang

JUDITH WILDE

Where you are from and where do you live now?

I was born in Granada and reside between Málaga, Spain and Indiana, USA.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Spain?

Throughout the year, Granada offers the traveler the best of herself. Granada Holy Week and the Crosses of May and Corpus Fair are big milestones on the calendar. But every month there are several reasons to visit the city of Alhambra.

What does it mean to be transgender in Spain?

I want to highlight the importance of standardization of transsexuals with stories like that of all the girls who are like me... Unfortunately, in this country and in many other parts of the world, transsexuality is not yet a condition accepted by the majority of citizens. Many people suffer teasing, assault and daily indifferent looks.

What is your favorite travel destination?

California. Here there are not only delicious tacos and beautiful people, but you can also have incredible hikes in national parks, swim in beautiful beaches and enjoy the relaxed lifestyle of its inhabitants. But I like to travel to any destination that brings me culture, knowledge and new ways of life. I think that like studying, traveling is the best investment a person can make.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

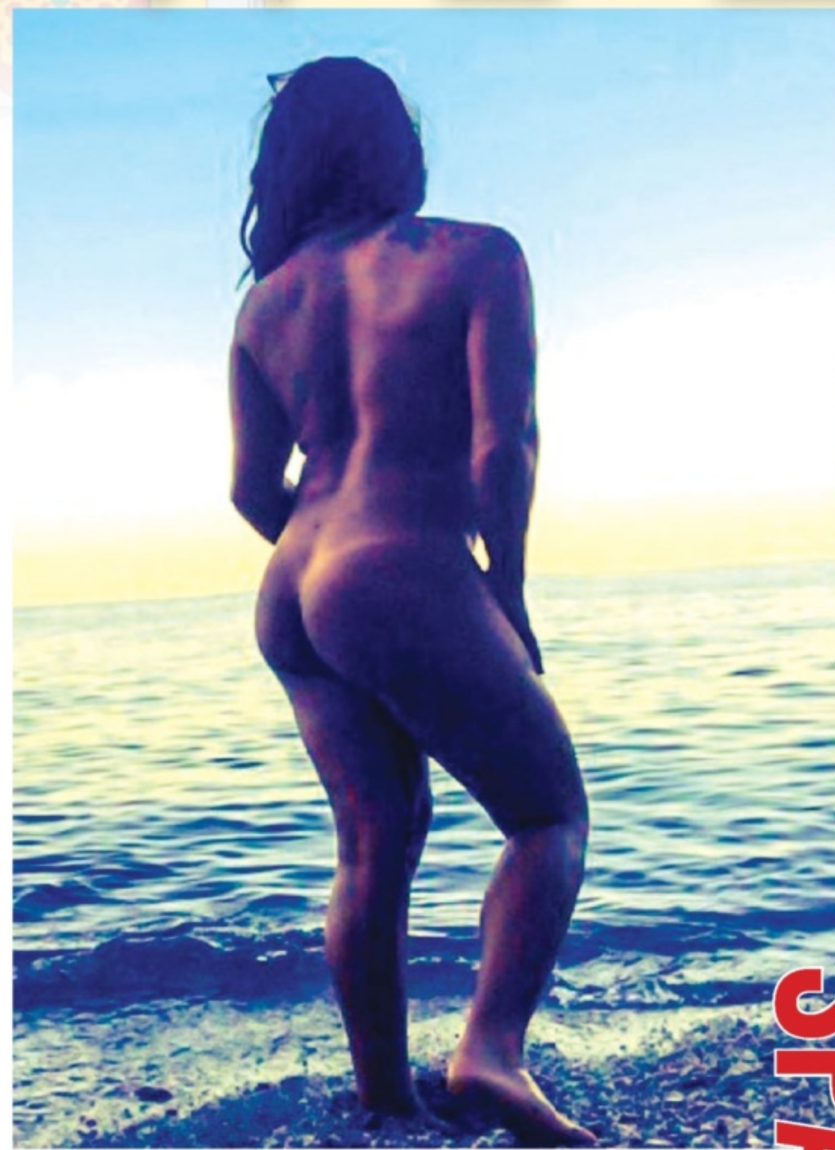
Barcelona, Madrid, Paris, London, New York and Indiana.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

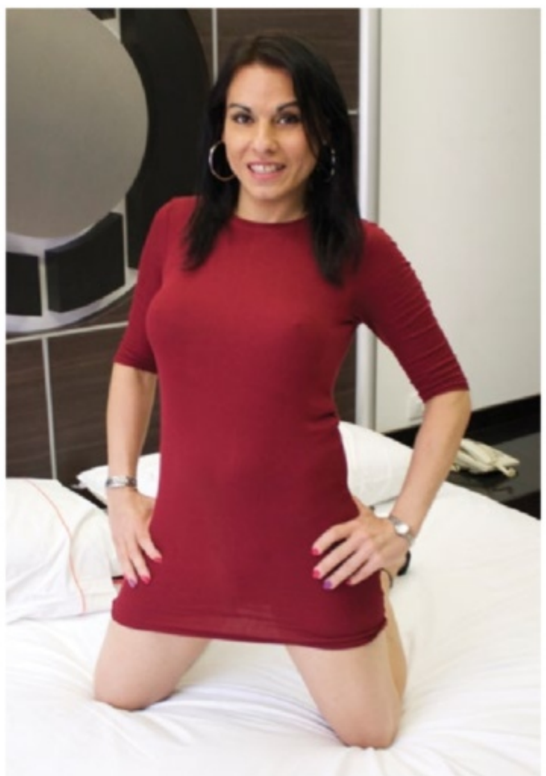
@JudithWilde7X

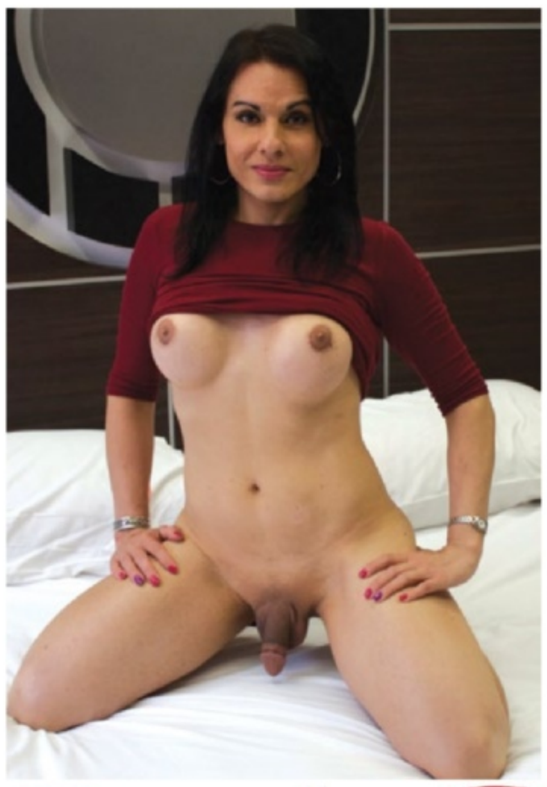
lasvegaschicas.com/TS_Judith_Wilde.php

PHOTOS BY: Las Vegas Chicas



SPAIN





MONICA VELA

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I live in Mexico City, where I also grew up.

What is your heritage?

Latina. I'm a Mexican-Cuban TGirl.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

Mexico City is the largest city in the world, where there are good and bad people, although I think there are more dishonest people. It's full of double standards but over the years and the efforts of the people of the LGBT community has become more inclusive which has allowed that being transgender is a little easier.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of Mexico?

Mexico City does not have a culture of its own as it is formed by people from different parts of the country and the world, and that creates a culture that cannot be defined.

What does it mean to be transgender in Mexico?

Every person experiences being transgender in a unique way and it is impossible to define it means. It has been very hard for me; I had to restart my life which is not easy after 28 years when you already have a life made. If I was born again and could choose, I would not mind a vagina or a penis, but to have the proper mind for my body based on what society interpreted as male or female.

What is your favorite travel destination?

I love beaches and forest.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when traveling?

I love trying new restaurants and when I travel I love to know the local food.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

MEXICO
@monavela (Spanish)
@monavela_peeps (English)
www.MONAVELA.com
PHOTOS BY: Phillip Rivers

PHILIPPINES

MAMI GLAMOUR

Where are you from and where are you living now?

I'm from the Philippines and currently living in England.

What is your heritage?

I'm Filipino with Chinese blood, from my Father's side.

Tell us about the town/city you grew up in, how did it influence who you are today?

I grew up in one of the cities that make up the municipality of Pateros and form Metro Manila, the national capital. Our big family house was where I was raised with my brother and other cousins, we never really had much but we had enough.

Growing up in those surroundings taught me the value of respect and living a simple life, it's given me an appreciation for what I have and also the energy to push myself to achieve goals and rewards.

What are some of the special traditions or cultural values of the Philippines?

The Philippines has the longest Christmas in the world. Radio stations start playing Christmas carols and department stores decorate their stores when September arrives. Looking from outside in, it does seem weird but it's very festive. I miss it greatly, now that I'm living in England, as I adore Christmas. Over here, I put my Christmas decorations up the in last week of November which is still frowned upon by my neighbors & friends.

What, if any, are the cultural beauty rituals/secrets of Philippines?

One thing I have noticed having lived in two different countries, is where I come from, people are obsessed with having their skin whiter. From bleaching, soaps to even tablets. People walk around with their umbrella up even when it's sunny because they don't want to be burnt. While here in England it's the complete opposite. People like to be tanned; there are tanning studios everywhere and cosmetic products in every department store or chemist. The English are very envious of my skin color.

What does it mean to be transgender in Philippines?

There are many misconceptions that since there are plenty of transgender girls in the Philippines that they live a good, normal life. Having either personally experienced or witnessed discrimination on a daily basis, I can say it's completely untrue. It ranges from being barred from entering clubs if you are a "man dressed in a woman's clothing" to going to the right toilet in public, receiving verbal abuse in the street & even random attacks.

These issues have come about from poor education, a lot of misinformation and strict religious beliefs. I can highlight these issues with authority, as the UK's approach & acceptance has given me something to match the Philippines against. It was lovely surprise when I arrived here & it has empowered me.

What is your favorite travel destination?

The beach!! Take me anywhere that has sun, sea, sand and I'm happy. I miss the Filipino beaches, their proximity and availability. You can't beat the sound of the waves and the smell of the salt water. The relaxing feeling of being close to nature, it's so peaceful.

What are some of your favorite hangouts, both in your hometown and when travelling?

Any good club or concert venue with a live band and/or DJ! I came from a musically inclined family, you either knew how to dance or sing and I got the latter genes. When the doors of the venue open and that wall of sound hits you from the speakers, it fills me with excitement & makes me feel alive. My friends & I are always looking out for any kind of artist playing locally or 100 miles away, the travel is always worth it. This enthusiasm probably comes from my childhood dream, to be a performer, to be Mariah Carey.

Read the second part of this interview on www.transformationonline.com

@MimiGlamourTS

www.MimiGlamourTS.com

PHOTOS BY: Andy Luvers
Mimi Glamour TS

BY **MICHELLE AUSTIN**

Interview with

When I met Ames Bex he was still Amy, but when I met him I knew I was meeting Ames; he may not have known it at that time but I have always seen him as Ames. The instant we met he was like my family— I consider him to be like my child—and this past year he began his journey to become his authentic self and I couldn't be prouder of him.

I wanted to feature Ames because he has so much talent and felt it was important to share it with you guys. He doesn't work in front of the lens, his greatest talents lie behind the lens as an amazing photographer and videographer. Last year he filmed a mini documentary on my life and I was amazed at what he produced. He recently wrapped up his first gallery showing in NYC—an exhibit called GORGE—which deals with beauty and food. I might add he also directed my DVD *Trans Men Adventures* and has taken a lot of the fabulous photos you see of me around. I love him and am proud to bring you Ames Bex.

MA: I am already privy to the story of your self-discovery but can you tell the readers a little about that?

AB: I came out as trans rather recently, and it has been quite the year. Around the time we met and I began working on Trans Man Adventures was when I started to come out to friends and family. I honestly can say that being on the porn set with you and all the FTM guys who were so comfortable and proud of their body helped in my process and made me begin to feel comfortable identifying as trans.

MA: I know before you had a go at photography and directing porn you were a successful queer/lesbian comic going on tour. What was that journey like and will Ames ever appear on stage to do comedy?

AB: I love standup comedy and I do miss the stage. To me, the feeling I get when I perform is like a great orgasm, and I definitely want to feel that again! I don't think I had the success I wanted as a comedian because I wasn't comfortable in my own skin and didn't have my "voice" yet. I do think I would like to perform again soon.

MA: You have photographed some famous people: Amanda Lepore, Margaret Cho, and the list goes on. Do you get star struck?

AB: I get star struck when I get to work with a performer who has had a major influence in my life in some way. Margaret Cho is someone who I looked up to as a teenager when I wanted to perform standup. I got to shoot portraits of her on set during the taping of a music video this summer, and I think I was confessing my love to her in between shots!

MA: This past summer you did your first art exhibit in NYC called Gorge. Can you tell us how that came about?

AB: GORGE is a photo series which is really personal to me - it's about food, obsession, and the daily struggle for acceptance of perceived physical flaws. I photographed a diverse group of performers and nightlife personalities with food. I wanted to challenge what society thinks is "gorgeous". You can now see all of the images at www.gorgebyamesbexxx.com, and even though I don't have plans for a new exhibit in the near future, but it is definitely something I will do again. I would also love to show GORGE at a gallery on the West Coast!

MA: What have been some influences throughout your life and why?

AB: Since I was a kid I was a huge fan of Broadway and musicals. I was one of the crazy kids who waited out in the cold for hours to see the musical RENT. That show had a huge affect on me when I was in high school struggling with my identity and being bullied. I identified with a lot of the characters in the show and it made me want to move to NYC to make my creative dreams a reality.

Ames Bexxx

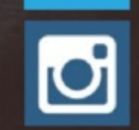
MA: What has it been like for you to work with so many trans people behind the camera for the adult world?

AB: It has been really helpful and inspiring in so many ways! It's so encouraging to see trans people comfortable in their bodies. It is also helpful that I have had the chance to talk to so many different people about their identity and coming out process. I feel bad when I meet someone who has no positive trans role models in their life....and here I am with SO many- clothed and unclothed!

MA: Are there any future plans for Ames besides your transition?

AB: I am working as a Staff Photographer for *Next Magazine*, I will be photographing lots of people with as little clothing as possible, and then counting down the days until I go to LA for the Trans Erotica Awards on March 6th-7th!

@AmesBexxx


AmesBex

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GORGE BY AMES BEXXX

"Dill with it: Quinn Glitterfuk"

"Side of Fries: Alotta McGriddles"

"Kibbles N' Bits: Louvell"

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EVENTS

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www.creatingchange.org

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The Keystone Conference is a celebration of the unique diversity of gender and the central and unifying place in society. Registration opens Jan. 15 for the conference.
www.keystone-conference.org

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The week-long event is the perfect place to be yourself with your peers. There's shopping, dining, shows, clubs, sightseeing, socializing, and, of course, gaming. There is no cost to register at this event. Registration opens Feb. 15.
www.geekbabe.com/div

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MALE BREAST NEWS

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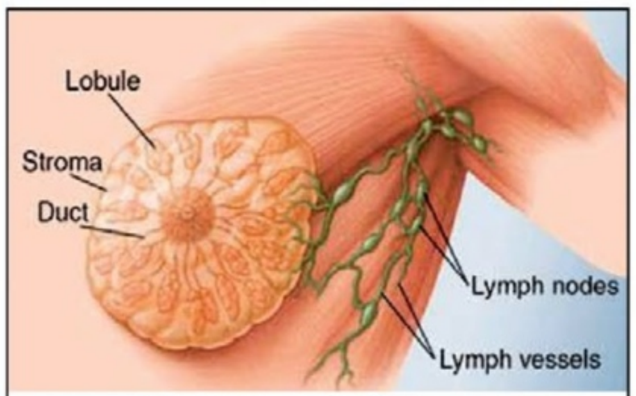
A further benefit of excess estrogen is that it increases the body's production of sex hormone-binding globulin (SHBG). SHBG binds free testosterone in the blood and makes it unavailable to cell receptor sites.



Anatomy of male breast

When estrogen increases, the production of SHBG, which binds any existing active free testosterone into an inactive "bound testosterone." Bound testosterone cannot be picked up by testosterone receptors on cell membranes. For testosterone to produce male sexual characteristics, it must be kept in the "free" form (not bound to SHBG) in the bloodstream. Your new excess estrogen hormone levels compete for testosterone receptor sites in the sex centers of the brain and the genitals.

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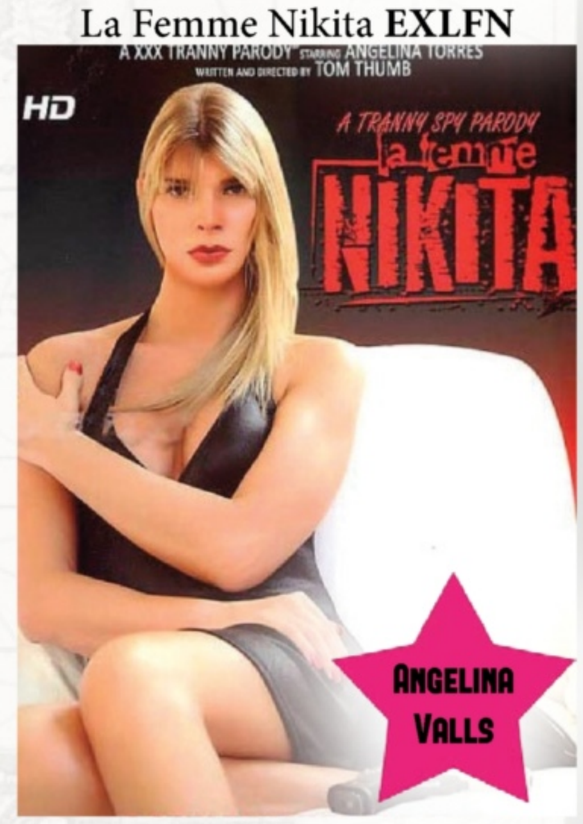

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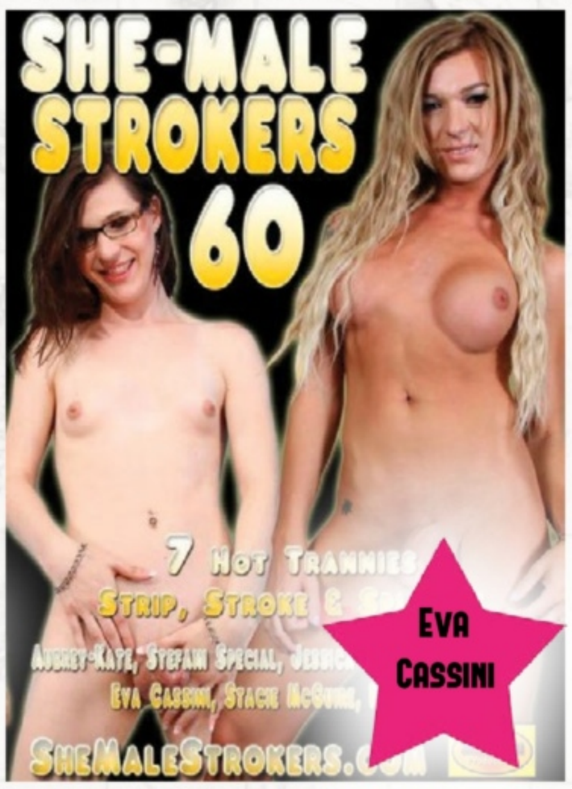

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She-Male Strokers 73 **EXSS73**

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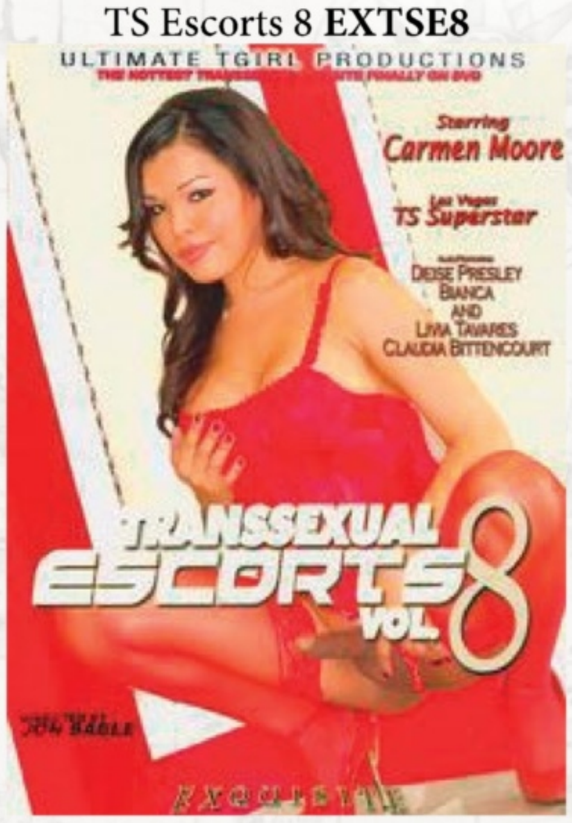
TS Escorts 6 **EXTSE6**

TS Escorts 8 **EXTSE8**



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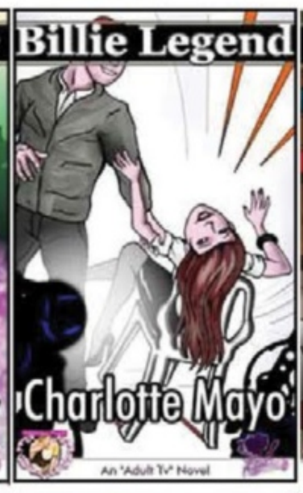

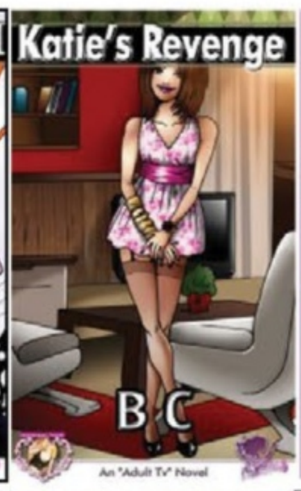

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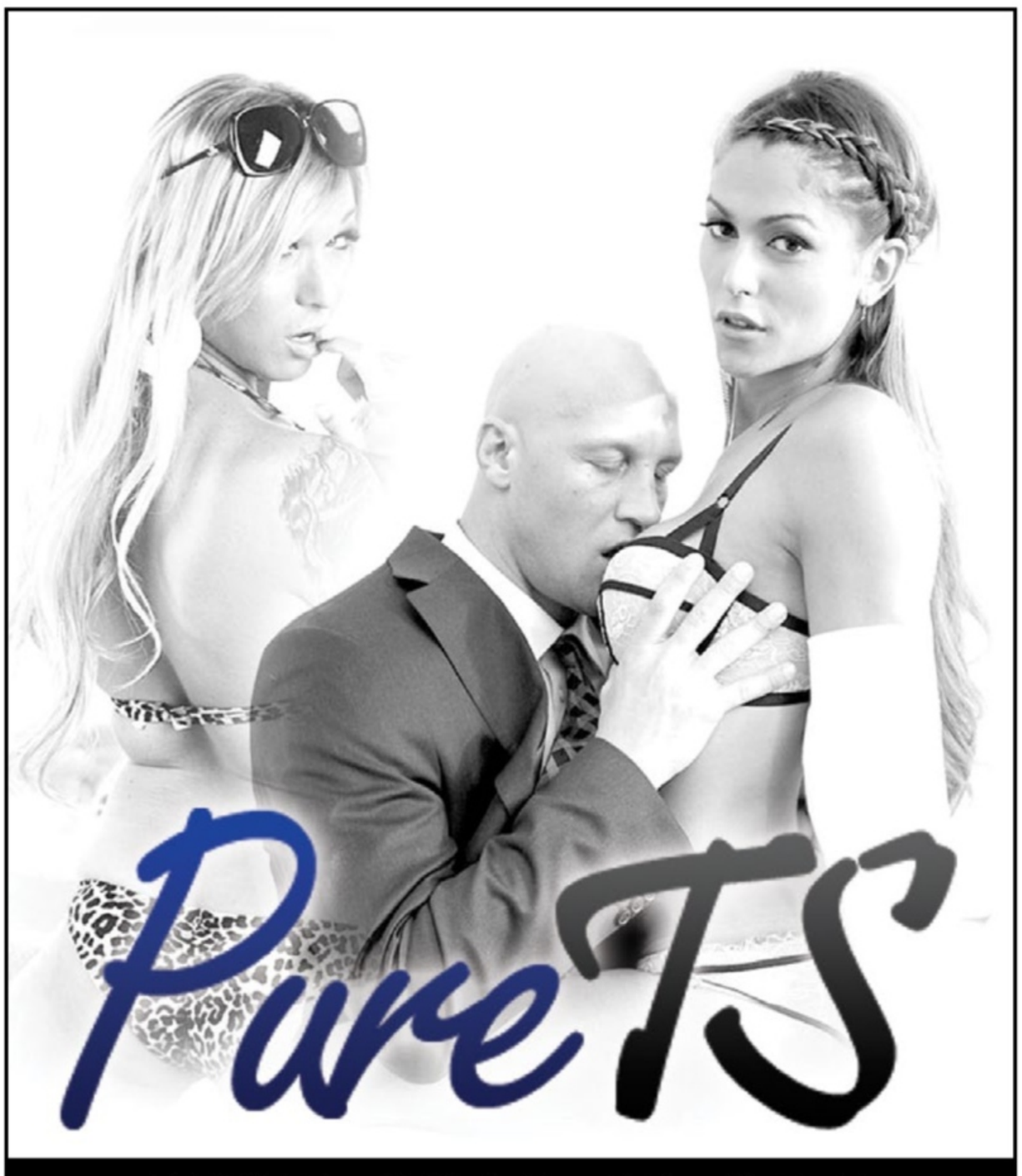

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